

CATES • SMITH • OLAZABA • CURIEL

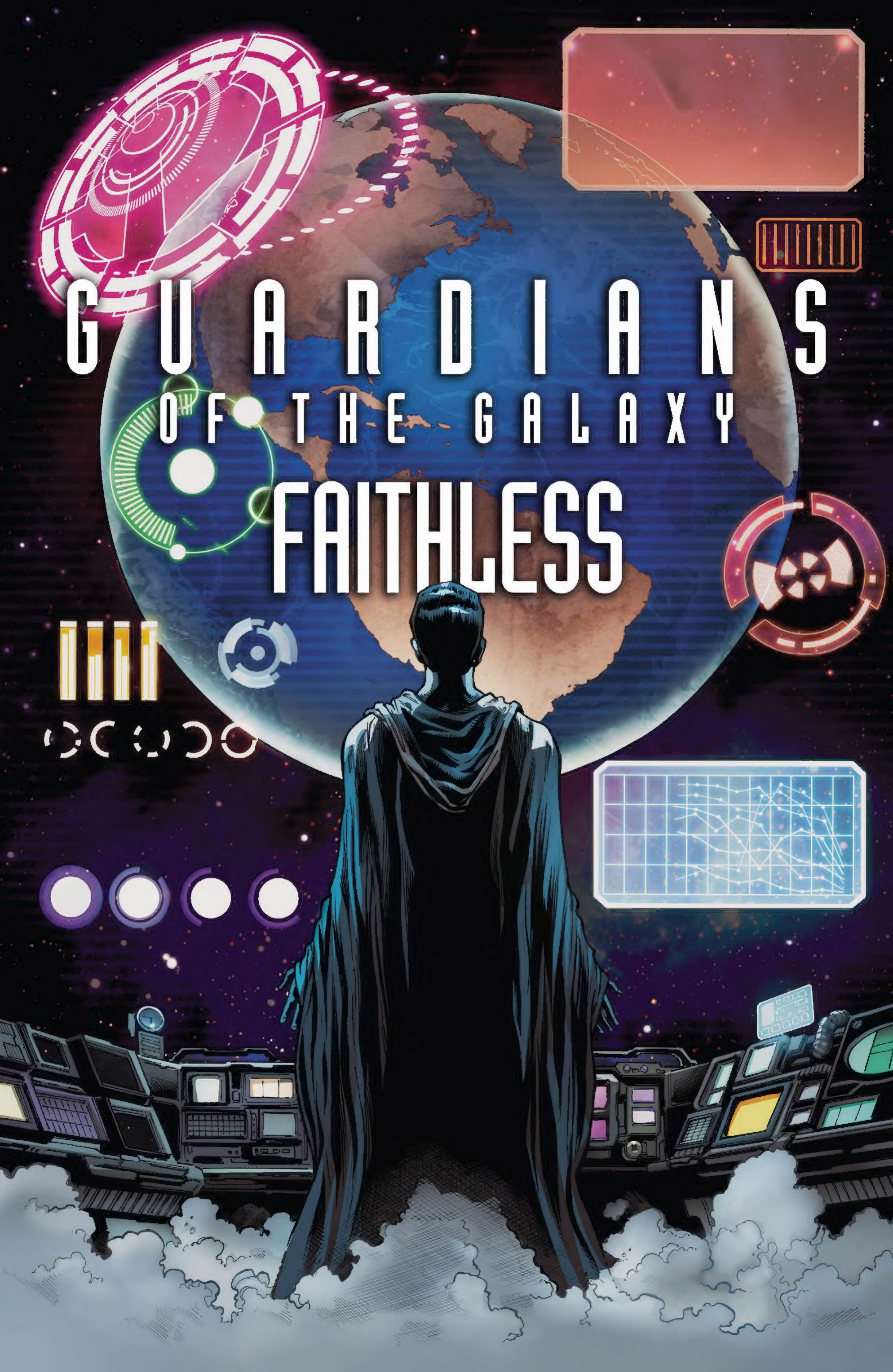
GUARDIANS OF THE GALAXY

*"Cates once again has
readers hooked on a feeling."*

— Multiversity Comics

FAITHLESS

MARVEL



GUARDIANS OF THE GALAXY FAITHLESS

GUARDIANS OF THE GALAXY



"FAITHLESS"

The galaxy's greatest warriors gathered to hear the reading of Thanos' last will and testament — only to be attacked by the Black Order as they sought to recover the Mad Titan's body!

The Black Order opened up a black hole and cast several heroes — including the Starjammers, Quasar, Cosmo, the Silver Surfer, Darkhawk, Adam Warlock and many others — into the abyss.

Luckily, a group of heroes escaped and re-formed the Guardians of the Galaxy.

But what happened to the many who weren't so lucky...?

ANNUAL #1

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ANNUAL #1



SOMEWHERE IN SPACE...

COSMO.
THE OTHER
HEROES WHO
FELL THROUGH
THE BLACK
HOLE...

HAVE YOU
LOCATED THEM
YET?

NYET. NOT
ALL OF THEM.
COSMO IS
TRYINK.

FAITH

BY DONNY CATES,
JOHN MCCREA
& MIKE SPICER

IT IS IMPERATIVE
THAT THEY ARE
FOUND.

THEY
MUST BE
SAVED.

THE WAY
WE SAVED
YOU.

DA, COSMO IS
HAPPY FOR YOU
TO BE RESCUE HIM
FROM VOID OF SPACE
AFTER SILVEREST OF
SURFERS PULL HIM
FROM BLACK
HOLE...

BUT YOU MUST
TO UNDERSTAND,
OTHERS...SCATTERED
ACROSS STARS...

WILL TAKE
TIME FOR
FAITH-DRONES
TO FIND AND
SAVE--

DEET DEET

AH! COSMO
IS LIAR. I HAVE
FOUND SEVERAL
OF THEM.

PILOTINK
DRONES IN
TO THEM
NOW...

MMMM.

SHOW
ME...

RICHARD RIDER.
NOVA CENTURION
11249-44396.

IT IS
CRITICAL YOU
PAY ATTENTION AT
THIS TIME.

A LONG TIME IN POLITICS

BY AL EWING, YILDIRAY CINAR & RAIN BEREDO

THARG'S BAR.
K'RII-3.

YEAH, YEAH,
KEEP YOUR **HELMET**
ON, OFFICER.

WHATCHA
WANT?

YOU GOT A
GOOD CENTAURIAN
FERMENTED WHEAT
ON TAP?

WE GOT
RED TAHLEI IN
BOTTLES.

GREAT.
I'LL TAKE A
TAHLEI.

THIRTY CRED. YOU
GOT **PHYSICAL?** THE
SCANNER'S BUSTED.

UGH, REALLY?
ALL I'VE GOT ON
ME IS...

YOU DON'T
TAKE **EARTH**
DOLLARS,
DO YOU?

...ARE THEY
CANADIAN
DOLLARS?

RELAX,
NOVA...



...I'VE GOT THIS ONE.

BLUE BLAZES--

--QUASAR?



I THOUGHT YOU WERE IN A BLACK HOLE WITH ALL THE OTHER MOVERS AND SHAKERS--

THE *SURFER* GOT A LOT OF US OUT-- BUT HE COULDN'T SAVE *HIMSELF*. HE'S STILL MISSING.*

SORRY, CAN I GET A FRUIT JUICE? KEEP THE CHANGE.

*SEE *SILVER SURFER: BLACK* #1 NEXT WEEK! --DS



HOW'S *GALACTUS* TAKING IT?

SERIOUSLY? THE *BIG G* GETS DEPRESSED?

I'VE SPOKEN TO HIM, BUT...HE'S TOUGH TO READ RIGHT NOW.

THE WHOLE "GOLD *GALACTUS*" THING, HAVING TO COME BACK FROM THAT-- HE'S KIND OF DOWN LATELY...



WELL...HE'S JUST THIS *GUY*, YOU KNOW?

LISTEN, RICH...UH, CAN WE TALK FOR A SEC?

WHAT, THIS ISN'T TALKING?



IT'S JUST...YOUR *COMMANDER*, WHEN I ASKED WHERE YOU WERE...WELL...

HE TOLD ME YOU'RE ON THERAPEUTIC LEAVE.



...YEAH.

YEAH, I GUESS I *SHOULD* TALK ABOUT THAT.

EIGHT STANDARD DAYS AGO.

"I WAS IN THE
KRAL SYSTEM.

NOVA CENTURION
11249-44396! YOU
KNOW THE NUMBER!
YOU KNOW MY
NAME!

IT IS CRITICAL
YOU PAY
ATTENTION AT
THIS TIME!

UNDER THE TERMS OF THE
NOVA CORPS PAN-WORLDS
JURISDICTION TREATY,
YOU HAVE THE RIGHT TO
SURRENDER NOW--

"YOU KNOW HOW
KRALLIAN SKRULLS DRESS
LIKE OLD-TIME MOBSTERS?

--OR FACE
IMMEDIATE
PENALTY!

"THEY'RE SEEN AS **SUBVERSIVE**
ELEMENTS BY THE LARGER SKRULL
EMPIRE--**DEGENERATES** IN
LOVE WITH AN ENEMY CULTURE.

"THIS BUNCH HAD PUT OUT AN
8X8 ALERT. ROGUE SQUAD OF
SKRULL SOLDIERS ON-PLANET,
LOOTING AND KILLING.

"NOT THE **FIRST TIME**. KRALLIAN
CULTURAL ARTIFACTS GO FOR **HIGH**
PRICES ON THE RIMWORLDS.

D-DESE
PALOOKAS--DEY
GOT YOUSE
OUTNUMBERED
5-TO-1!

I'M
AWARE,
CITIZEN.

THAT'S WHY I
CAN ONLY OFFER
ONE FINAL WARNING.
CIVILIAN LIVES CANNOT
BE PUT AT RISK--THAT'S
NOVA PROTOCOL.

PLEASE.
SURRENDER
NOW.

HTT! YOU
THINK YOU CAN
SAVE THESE SUBVERTS
FROM WHAT'S
COMING?

WARRIORS--KILL
THEM ALL! WE MUST
SECURE OUR TREASURE
BEFORE--

"THEY DO LOVE
THAT SKRULL JAZZ.

I'M NOT
TRYING TO SAVE
THEM.

I WAS TRYING TO SAVE YOU. I'M SORRY.

BUT THAT'S THE PROTOCOL.

"THE THING IS--
RAIDING PARTIES
LIKE THAT SHOULDN'T
HAPPEN ANYMORE.

"THE KRAL SYSTEM
WAS UNDER THE
PROTECTION OF THE
SKRULL EMPEROR,
KL'RT--AS WELL AS
UNDER NOVA CORPS
JURISDICTION.

"THEY HAD TO KNOW
THEY WOULDN'T GET
AWAY WITH IT...RIGHT?"

11249-
44396 CALLING
COMMAND--NEED
TO SUBMIT A FORM
37 FOR USE OF
LETHAL FORCE,
OVER.

RIDER?
IS THAT
YOU?

THIS IS
ADSI! LISTEN,
THE SKRULLS--THEY
KNOW YOU'RE
THERE--

THEY FOUND
ME, COMMANDER.
THAT'S WHY I NEED
THE 37--

NOT THE
RAIDERS. I JUST
GOT A MESSAGE FROM
THE SKRULL HIGH
COMMAND,
RICH.

THEY
SAY THEY'RE
"CLEANING UP" THE
KRAL SYSTEM--THAT
IT'S WEAKENING
THE EMPIRE--

WHAT? SCOTT, THAT'S CRAZY--KRAL'S
A PROTECTED SYSTEM UNDER THE
PAN-WORLDS TREATY--

THE SKRULLS JUST
PULLED OUT OF THE
TREATY, RICH! WE NO
LONGER HAVE JURISDICTION
IN THE ANDROMEDA GALAXY!

THEY SAID
YOU EITHER GET
OFF THEIR WORLD--
RIGHT NOW--

--OR YOU'LL
"FACE IMMEDIATE
PENALTY."



BLAZES
I WILL.

I JUST
SAVED THESE
PEOPLE--I'M NOT
LETTING THEM GET
"CLEANED UP,"
WHATEVER THAT
MEANS.

I DREAD
TO THINK. HANG
ON. NEW MESSAGE
FROM THE HIGH
COMMAND--

OH
GOD.



RICH!
TAKE OFF!
GET OUT!

GET
--SKRRKLE--
NOW--



SCOTT?
COMMANDER ADSIT,
YOU'RE **BREAKING**
UP--

THEY
--KRRKKL--DID
IT! THEY
ALREADY DID--
KWWRX--

"THEY'D ALREADY DONE IT.
NEARLY **TEN MINUTES**
BEFORE SCOTT HAILED
ME, THEY'D TRIGGERED
THE PROCESS.

"TEN MINUTES.



"KRAL-IV WAS TEN
LIGHT-MINUTES FROM
THE LOCAL **SUN**.

"AND THEY'D
ALREADY
DETONATED IT."

SOME HAD
ALREADY EVACUATED.
BUGFACE BROWN,
PRINCE DEZAN, BOSS
BARKER'S BOYS... MAYBE
TEN THOUSAND
SURVIVED.

EVERYONE ELSE
BURNED.

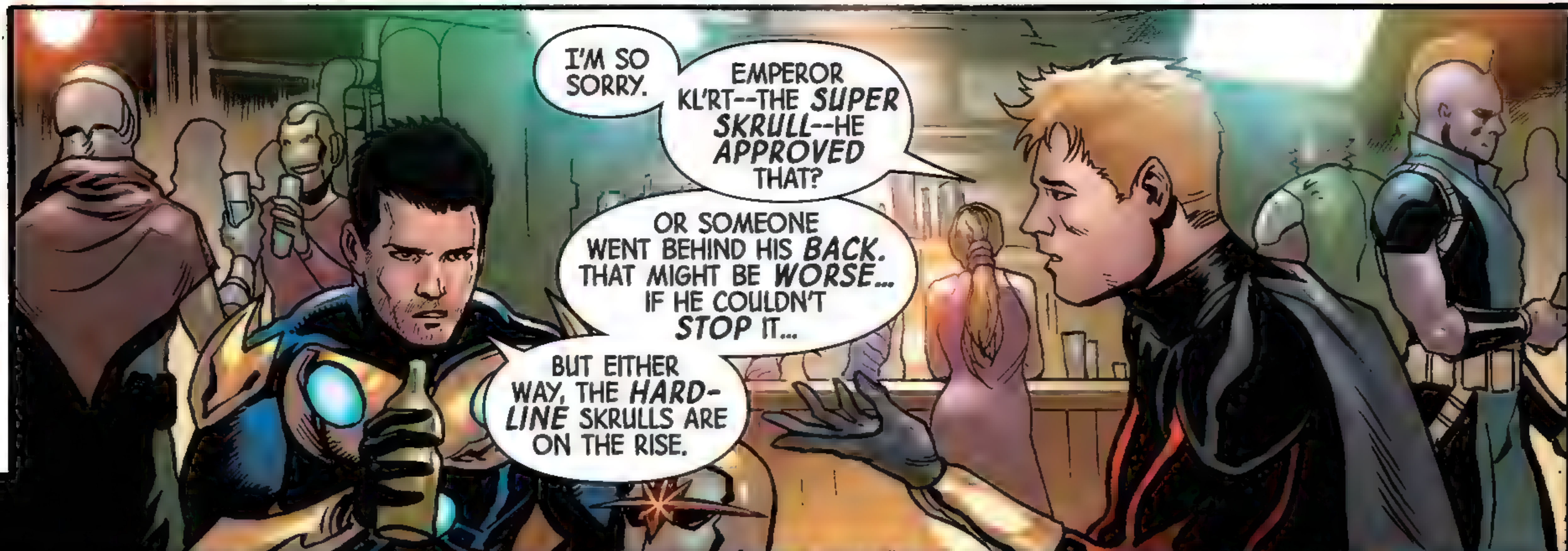
EXCEPT ME.
THE NOVA FORCE...
IT USED THE HEAT AND
RADIATION TO POWER
MY SHIELDING.

"SO I GOT
TO WATCH."

I'VE SEEN WORSE.
THAT'S THE MESSED-
UP PART--I HAVE
SEEN WORSE.

BUT...
YEAH.

"THERAPEUTIC
LEAVE."



I'M SO SORRY.

EMPEROR KL'RT--THE **SUPER SKRULL**--HE APPROVED THAT?

OR SOMEONE WENT BEHIND HIS **BACK**. THAT MIGHT BE **WORSE...** IF HE COULDN'T **STOP IT...**

BUT EITHER WAY, THE **HARD-LINE** SKRULLS ARE ON THE RISE.

"ONLY THERE WAS A FACTION OF KREE **EXPLORERS--** WARRIOR TYPES--THAT DIDN'T **LIKE THAT** THEY STAGED A COUP

AND IT'S THE SAME STORY WITH THE **KREE**.

I DON'T KNOW IF YOU **HEARD--**THEY GREW A NEW **SUPREMOD** FROM AN OTHER-DIMENSIONAL "**PLEX INTELLIGENCE**."

BIG SWING TOWARD **UTOPIANISM**.



"NOW IT'S A **CIVIL WAR**. THE **UTOPIAN KREE**--THEY'RE GETTING **STOMPED**."

"**RONAN THE ACCUSER**--HE'S **ALREADY DEAD**."*

*SEE **DEATH OF THE INHUMANS!** --DS



RUMOR IS THE **WARRIOR** FACTION--THE "**KREE IMPERIUM**," THEY CALL THEMSELVES--THEY DON'T LIKE THE PAN-WORLDS TREATY **EITHER**.

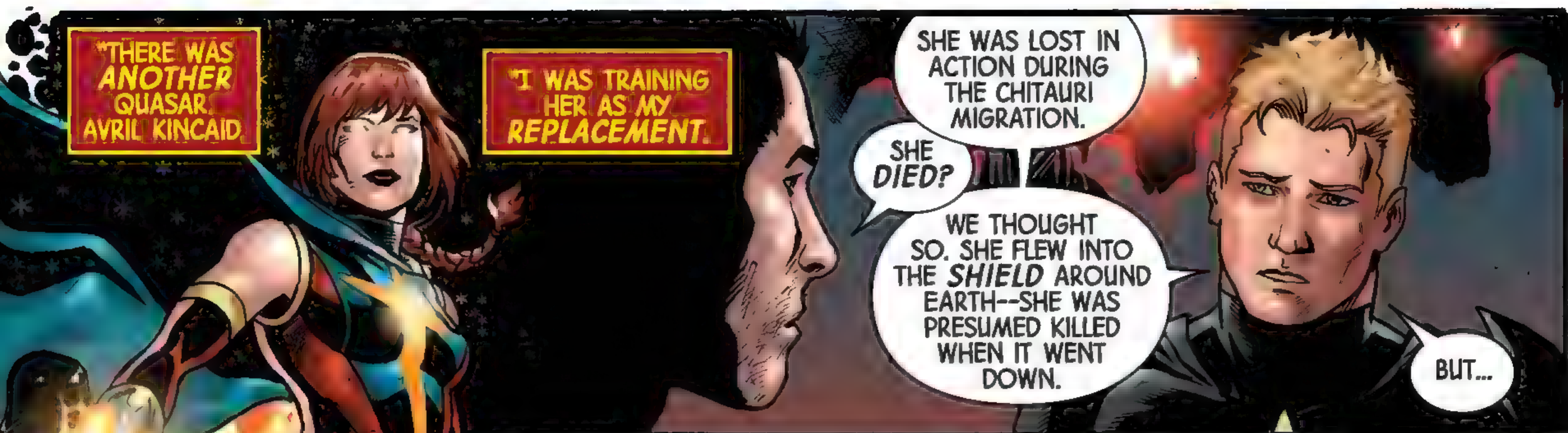
SO IF THEY **WIN**, THE **KREE** ARE OUT **TOO**. THEN THE **SHI'AR**--THEY ONLY PLAY ALONG TO BE **POLITE**--THEN **CENTAURI...THE RIMWORLDS...**

EVERYONE. THE **END OF THE RULE OF LAW** IN THIS GALAXY--AND THE **BEGINNING OF SOMETHING UNIMAGINABLE**.



YEAH. THAT SOUNDS **BAD**, ALL RIGHT. BUT...

WELL, HAVE I TOLD YOU **MY NEWS?**



THERE WAS ANOTHER QUASAR. AVRIL KINCAID.

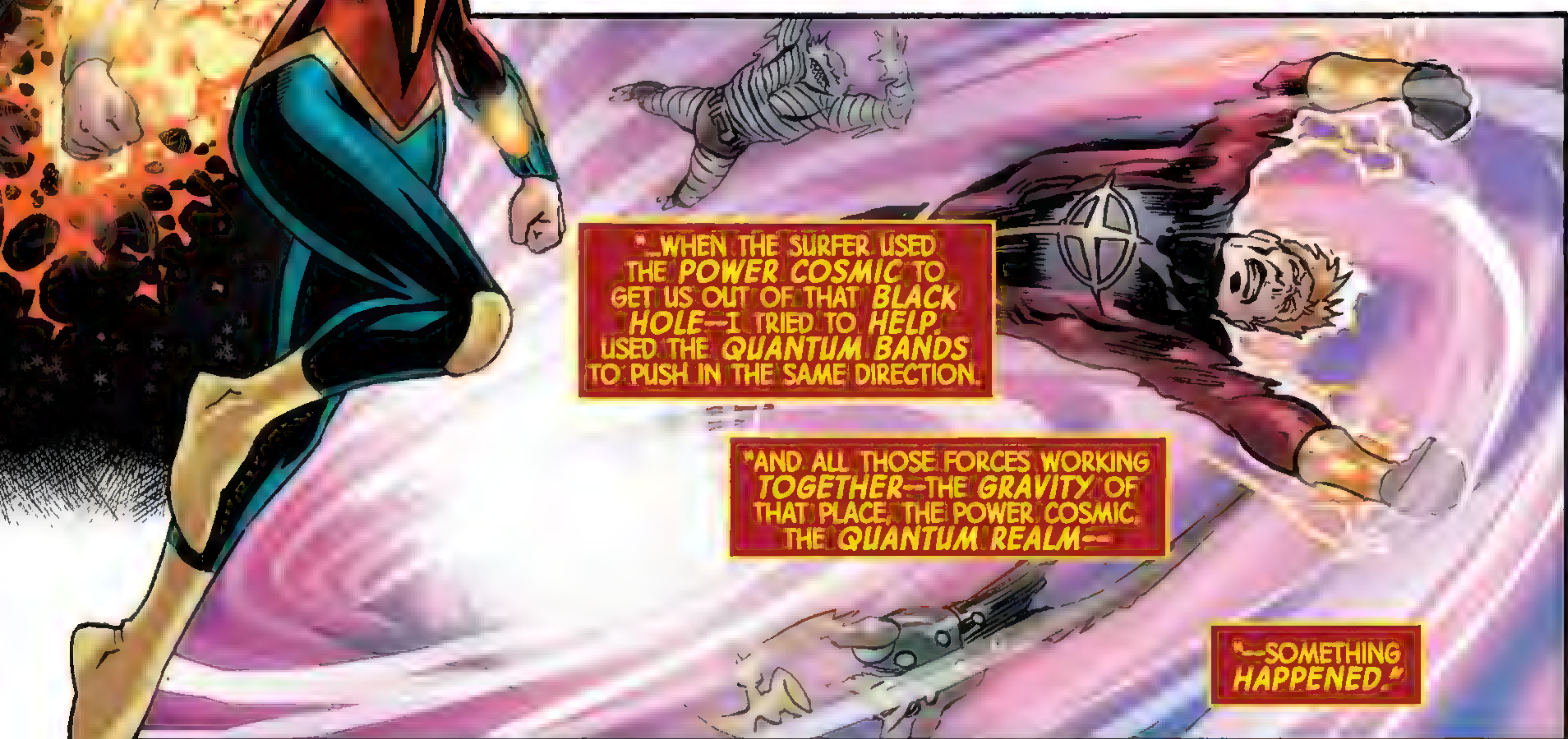
I WAS TRAINING HER AS MY REPLACEMENT.

SHE WAS LOST IN ACTION DURING THE CHITAUURI MIGRATION.

SHE DIED?

WE THOUGHT SO. SHE FLEW INTO THE SHIELD AROUND EARTH--SHE WAS PRESUMED KILLED WHEN IT WENT DOWN.

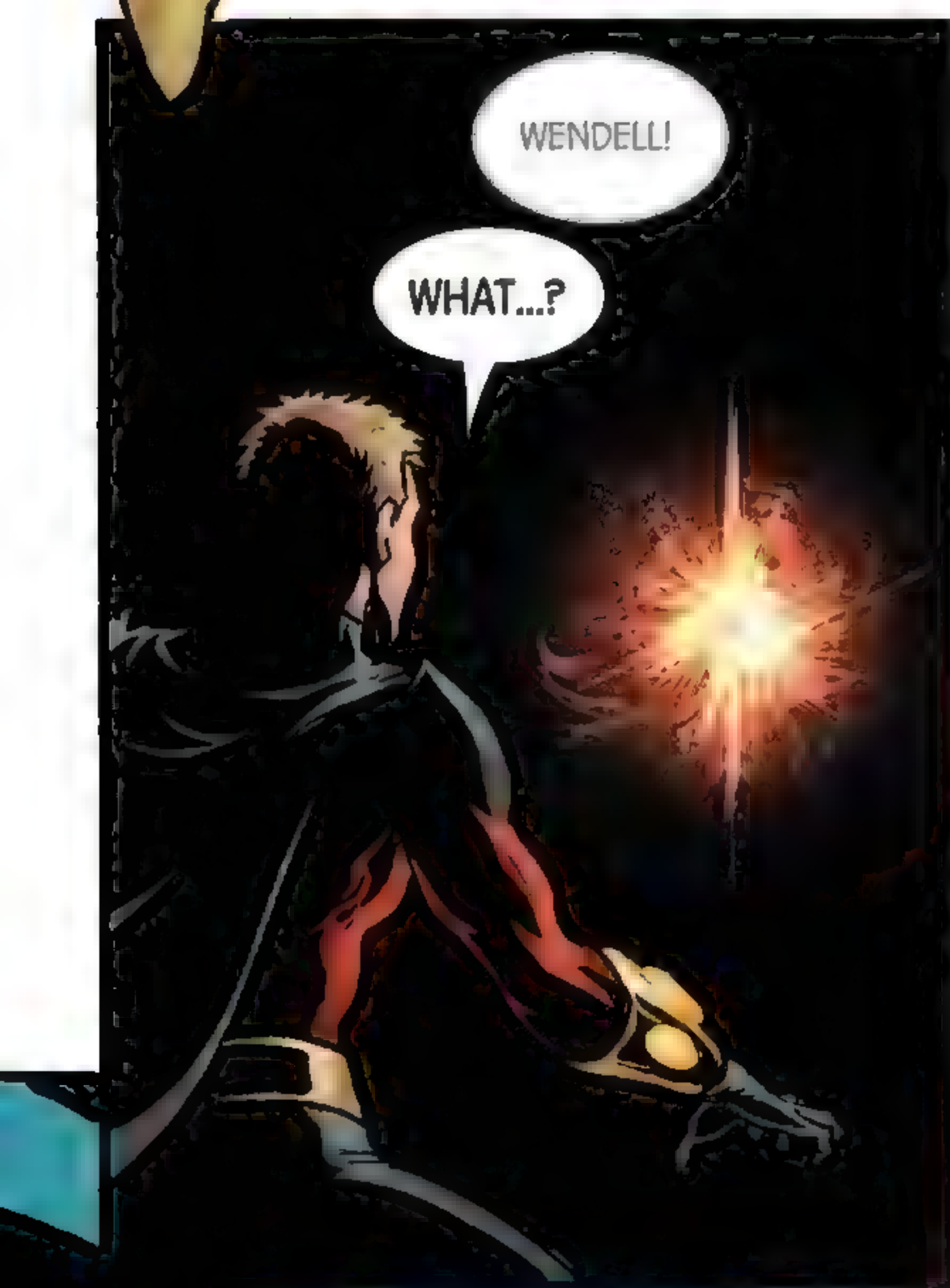
BUT...



...WHEN THE SURFER USED THE POWER COSMIC TO GET US OUT OF THAT BLACK HOLE--I TRIED TO HELP. USED THE QUANTUM BANDS TO PUSH IN THE SAME DIRECTION.

AND ALL THOSE FORCES WORKING TOGETHER--THE GRAVITY OF THAT PLACE, THE POWER COSMIC, THE QUANTUM REALM--

SOMETHING HAPPENED.



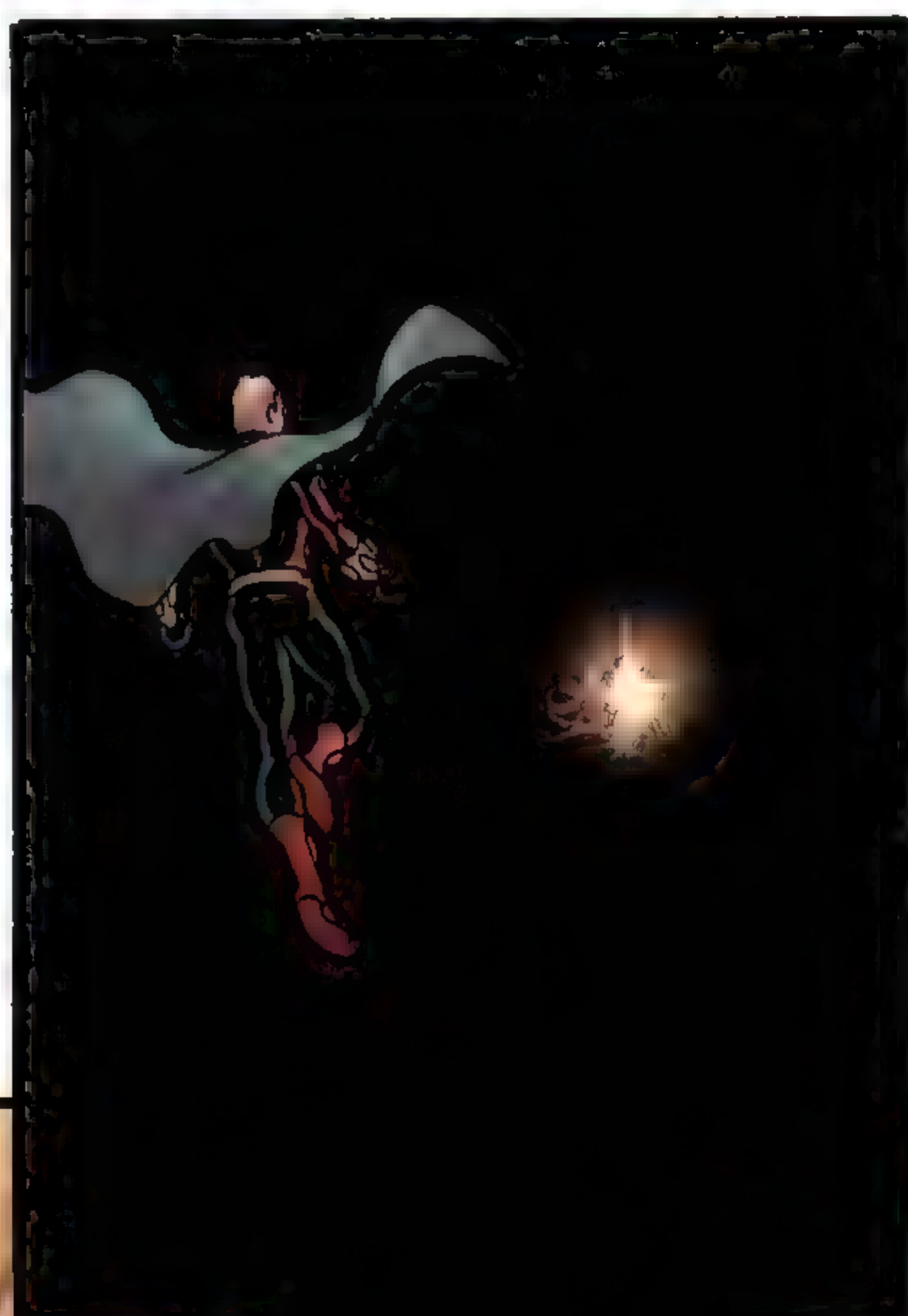
WENDELL!

WHAT...?



CAN YOU HEAR ME? WENDELL VAUGHN!

YOU NEED TO--



JUST FOR A MOMENT. A SPLIT SECOND. BUT NOW WE KNOW. THERE'S HOPE.

AVRIL KINCAID IS LOST.

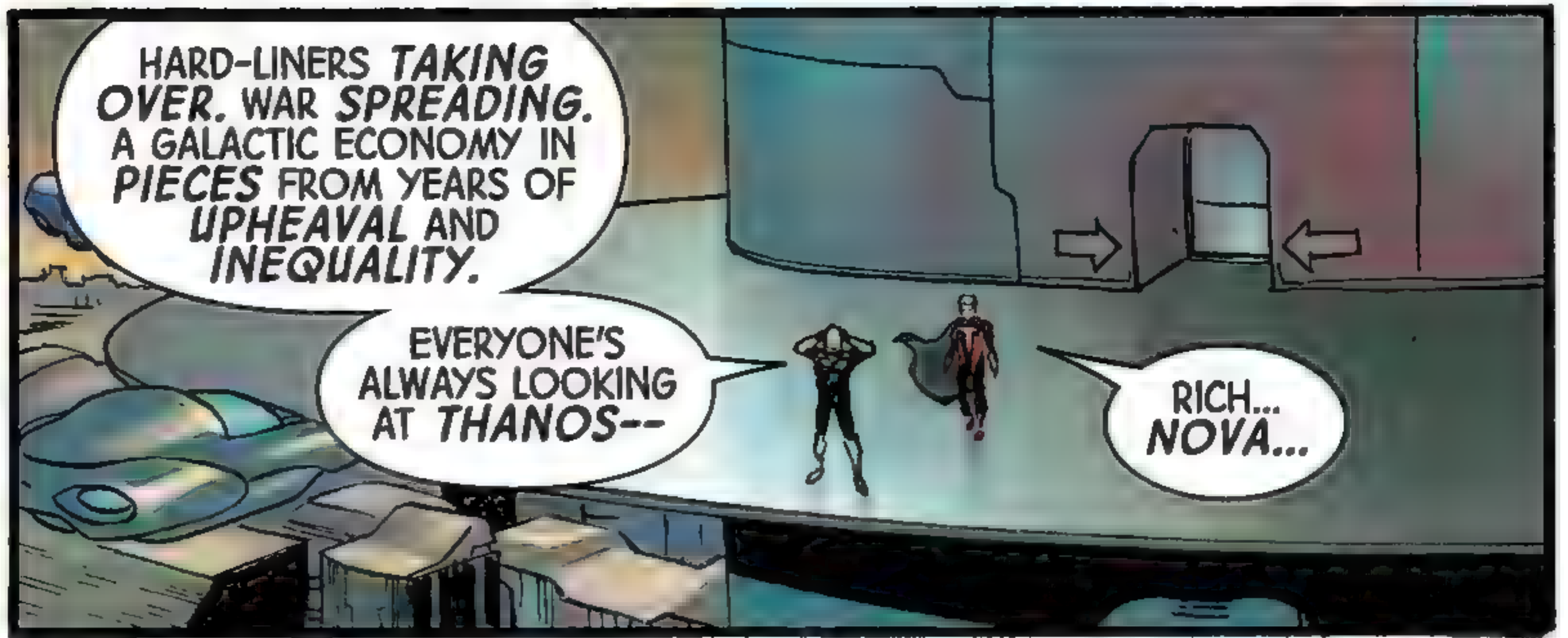
BUT THAT MEANS SHE CAN BE FOUND.





SEE, I LIVE IN THE **BACKGROUND** OF YOUR DAMN BIG PICTURE. I SEE THE THOUSAND LITTLE THINGS THAT KEEP IT **RUNNING**.

I SEE THE **POLITICS**.



HARD-LINERS TAKING OVER. WAR SPREADING. A GALACTIC ECONOMY IN PIECES FROM YEARS OF UPHEAVAL AND INEQUALITY.

EVERYONE'S ALWAYS LOOKING AT **THANOS**--

RICH... NOVA...



--NO ONE'S EVER LOOKING AT THE **30-CRED BEER**.



IT'S GOING TO TAKE **ONE MORE THING**, QUASAR. JUST **ONE**. ONE UNFORESEEABLE EVENT. ONE **NEW PLAYER** IN THE GAME.

THAT'S ALL IT'S GOING TO TAKE TO START THE **COLLAPSE**--AND I PROMISE YOU, UNLESS YOU KNOW WHAT TO LOOK FOR--

--**NONE** OF YOU ARE GOING TO SEE IT COMING.



OH, **RICH...**

QUASAR.



HE IS **WRONG**.

HUH?



YOU **MUST HAVE FAITH...**

ONE CANNOT
SEE A BLACK HOLE.

ONE CAN ONLY *DETECT* THEM
FROM THE NEGATIVE SPACE, THE
BEHAVIOR OF OBJECTS AS THEY
PASS OVER, AROUND
AND OCCASIONALLY--

--THROUGH
THEM.

AAH!

DECEPTIVE REFLECTIONS ARE
CREATED WHEN AN OBJECT PASSES
BETWEEN A BLACK HOLE AND A
SOURCE OF LIGHT.

WHA--

WHAT HAD *BEEEN* A
CONFUSING AND CONTENTIOUS
WILL READING...

...BECAME A SURPRISE
ATTACK SENDING US INTO
DEEPEST SPACE.

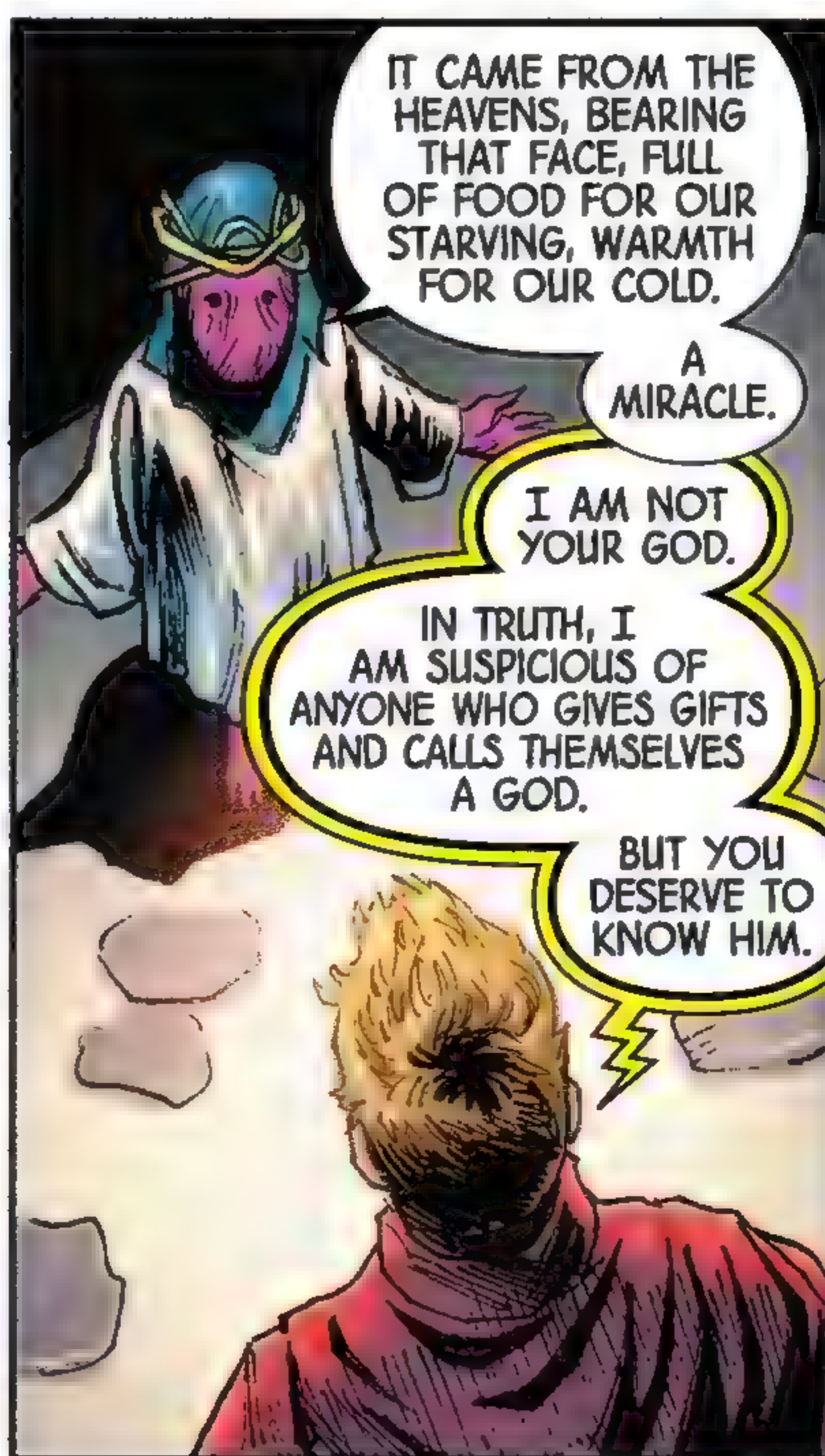
AAAAH--

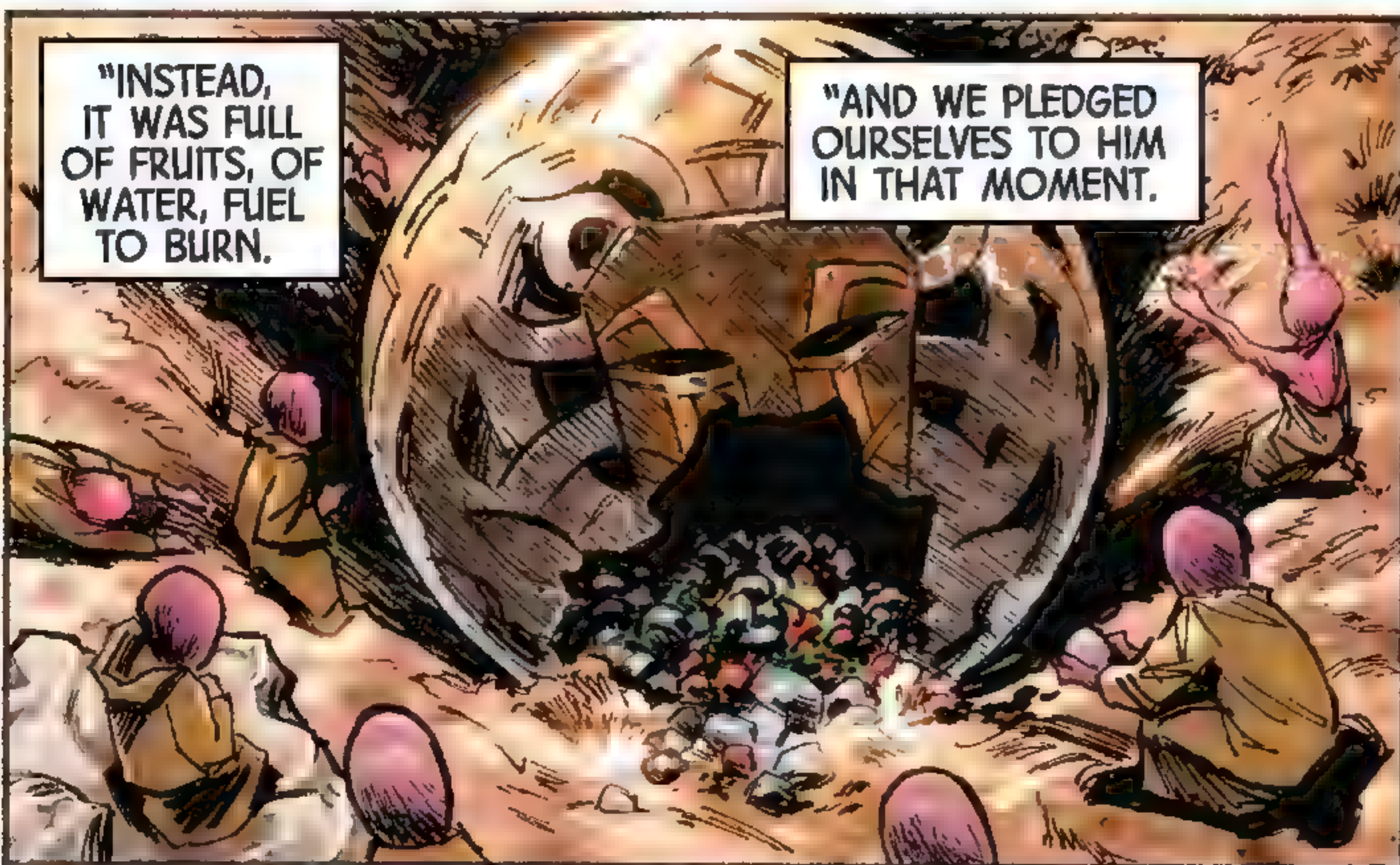
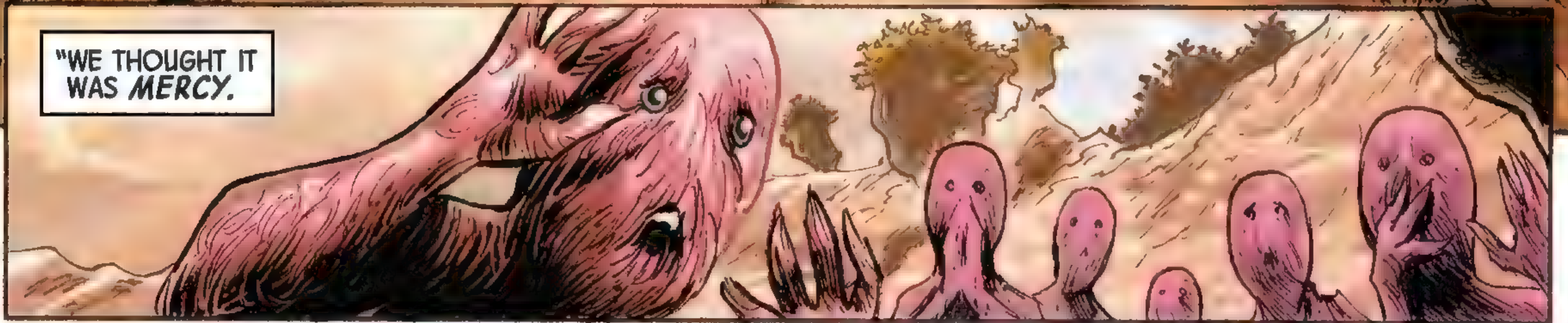
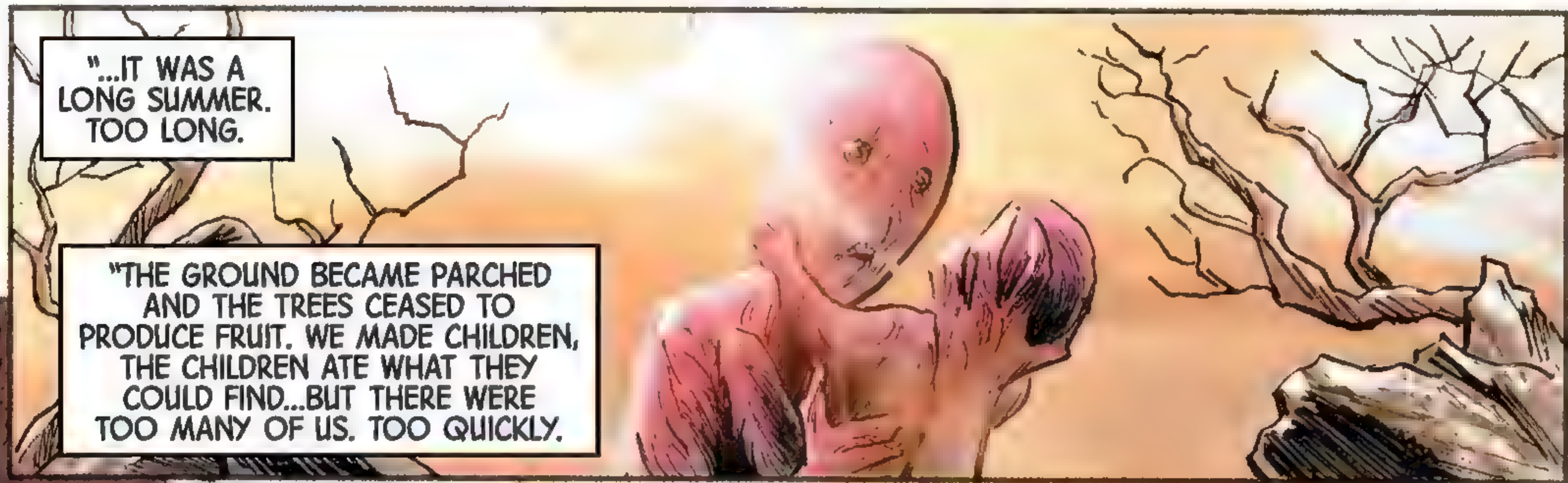
ADVENT HORIZON

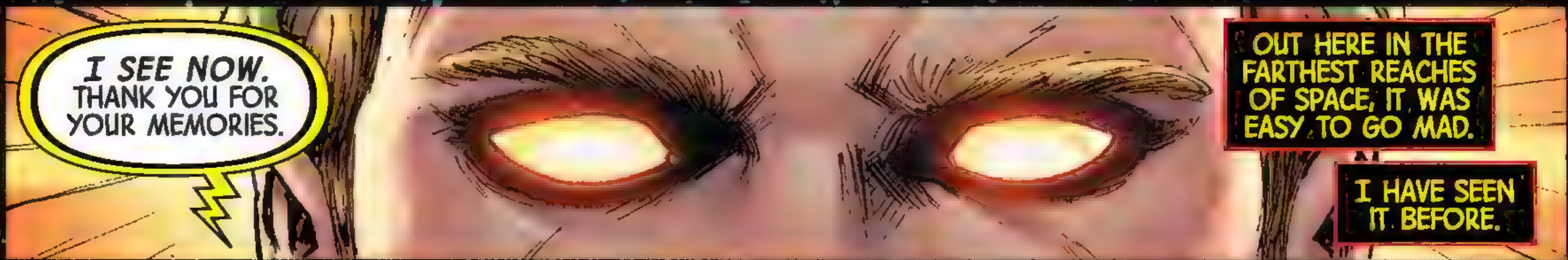
BY TINY HOWARD, IBRAHIM MOUSTAFA & JAY DAVID RAMOS







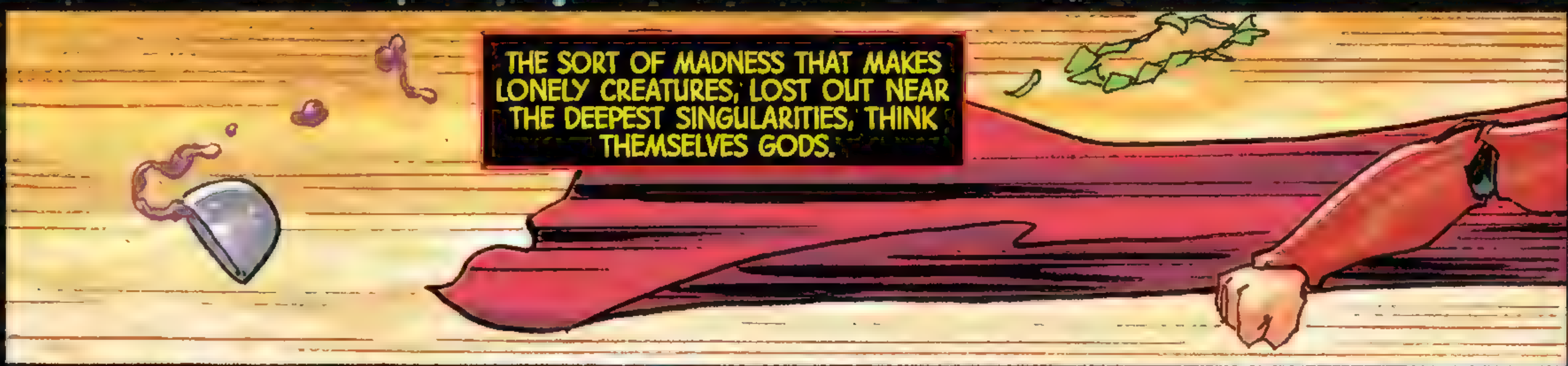




I SEE NOW.
THANK YOU FOR
YOUR MEMORIES.

OUT HERE IN THE
FARTHEST REACHES
OF SPACE, IT WAS
EASY TO GO MAD.

I HAVE SEEN
IT BEFORE.



THE SORT OF MADNESS THAT MAKES
LONELY CREATURES, LOST OUT NEAR
THE DEEPEST SINGULARITIES, THINK
THEMSELVES GODS.



TO SEND GIFTS TO A
FRIGHTENED SPECIES ON
THE VERGE OF EXTINCTION—

—IT IS NEVER FOR
KINDNESS' SAKE.

OUT HERE, NO
ONE IS KIND TO THE
GENTLE, THE MEEK.

SPACE,
HIGH ABOVE RYAS.



HAIL
WARLOCK.

HAIL.

YOU ARE
THE GOD OF
THE DRUFF,
THEN.

HAVE
YOU A
NAME?

I AM
NAMELESS.
FACELESS.

ONCE I
WAS MERELY
A MAN. LIKE
YOU.

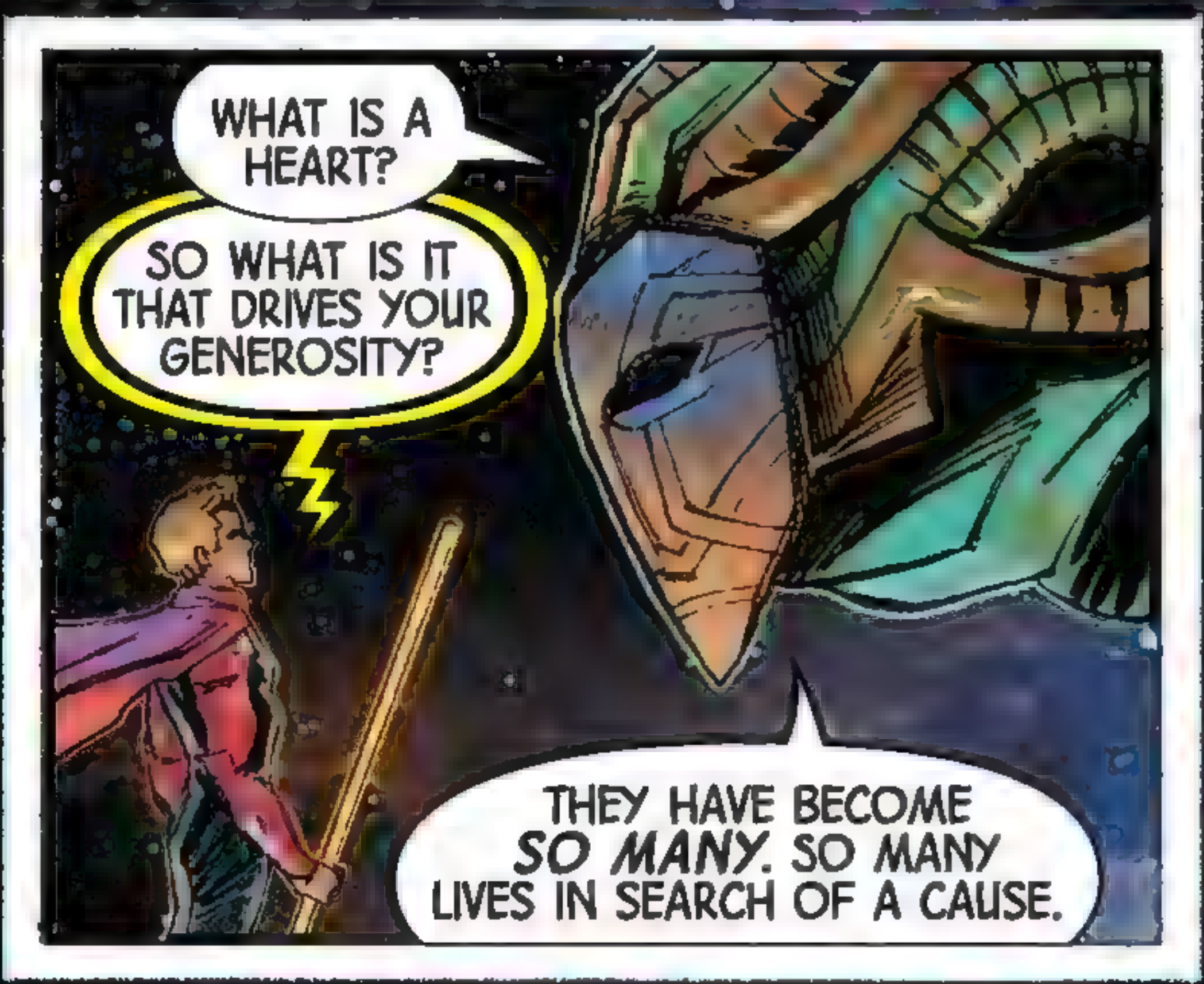
BUT NOW, I
AM SOMETHING
ELSE. LIKE
YOU.

I MASKED
MYSELF SO AS
NOT TO FRIGHTEN
THE BEASTS
BELOW.

ONLY TO
SEE THEY HAVE
NO FACES.

AND FOR
WHAT DO
YOU GIVE THEM
GIFTS?

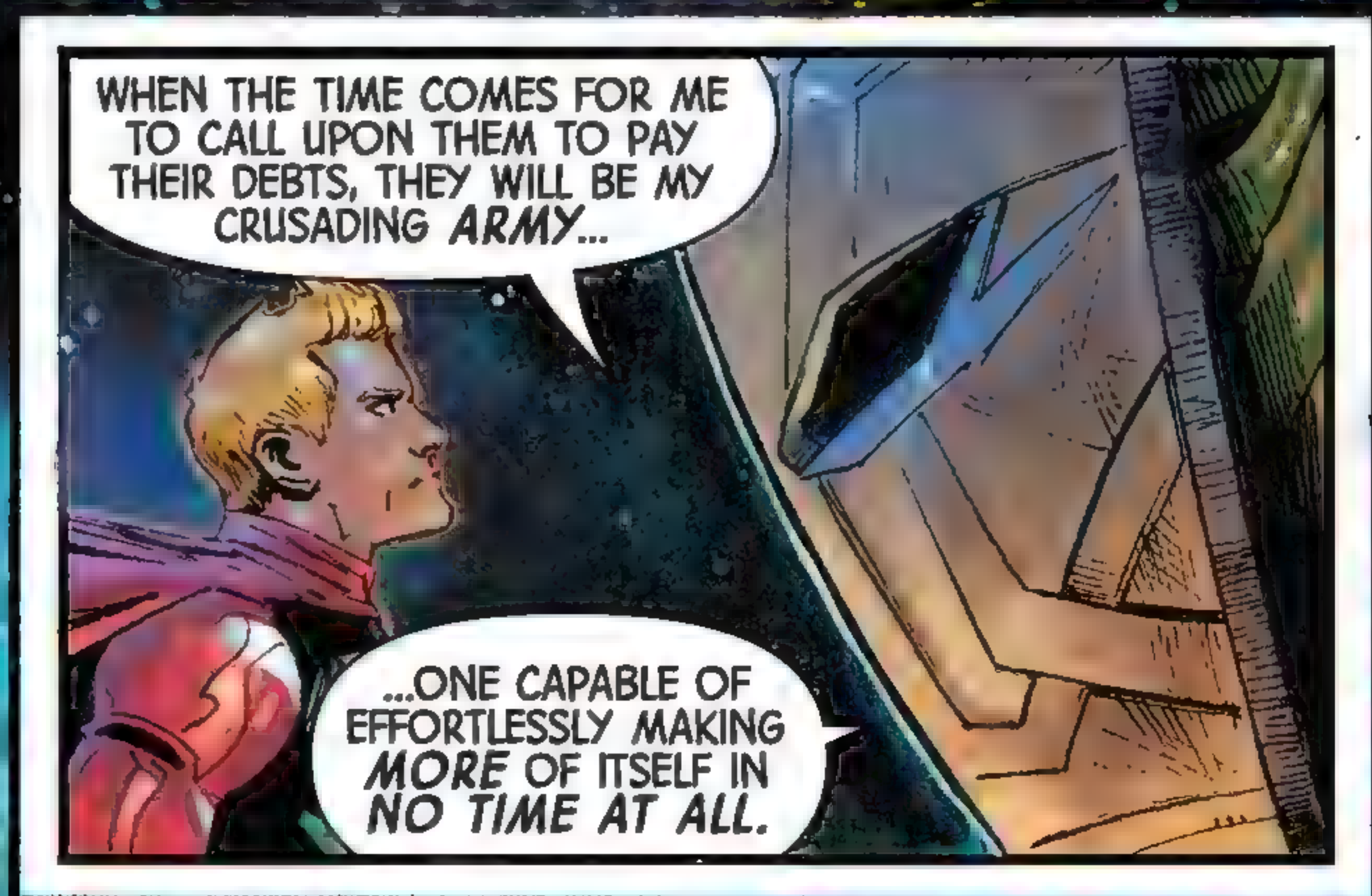
IS YOUR
HEART SO
PURE?



WHAT IS A
HEART?

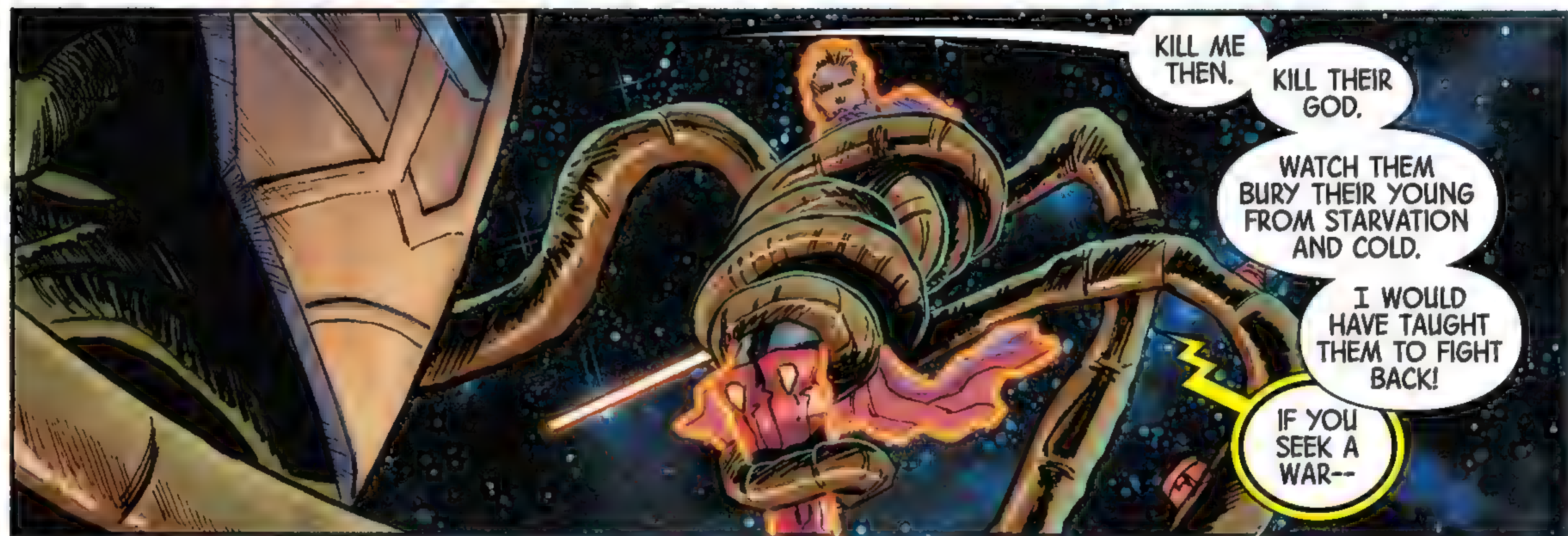
SO WHAT IS IT
THAT DRIVES YOUR
GENEROSITY?

THEY HAVE BECOME
SO MANY. SO MANY
LIVES IN SEARCH OF A CAUSE.



WHEN THE TIME COMES FOR ME
TO CALL UPON THEM TO PAY
THEIR DEBTS, THEY WILL BE MY
CRUSADING ARMY...

...ONE CAPABLE OF
EFFORTLESSLY MAKING
MORE OF ITSELF IN
NO TIME AT ALL.





ARE YOU AFRAID
TO SHOW YOUR FACE
TO YOUR FOLLOWERS?
YOU, WHO CALL THEM
FACELESS?

THEIR FACES
ARE NOT LIKE YOURS.
THEIR FACES ARE **STRANGE**
BUT THEY ARE THEIR
OWN.

WHAT OF
YOURS?!

SK
HH
K
RAK

NOOOO--!

BOOM
BOOM

KYKYN
KRORBPFFF
PPRRMRDIBXRB
YBZYDMMRB.

WHAT
OF YOU
NOW?

KA-BOOM

"YOU POOR
CREATURES."

YOU NEVER
KNEW WHAT YOU
PROMISED TO THE HEAVENS,
ACCEPTING A GIFT OUT HERE
IN THE VOID OF SPACE.
YOU SIMPLY WANTED
TO EAT.

WHAT WILL
BECOME OF
YOU?

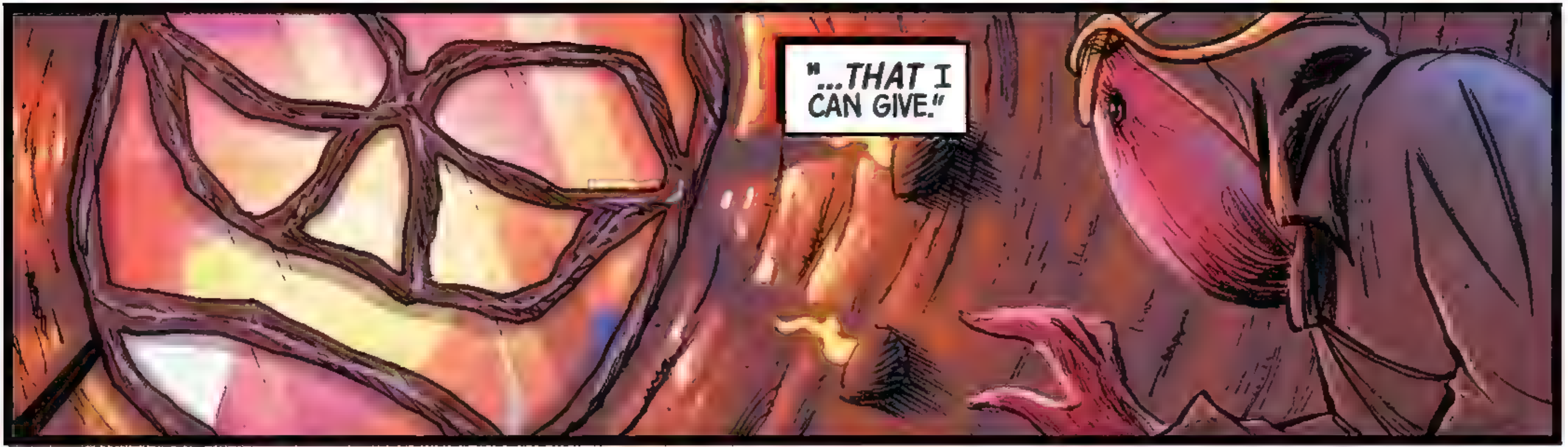
DO I
DESTROY THEM
NOW TO BRING
THEM MERCY?

OR DON THE
MASK MYSELF, AND
BECOME LIKE A GOD
TO THEM?

...NEITHER.

IT IS NOT
MY CHOICE TO
MAKE.

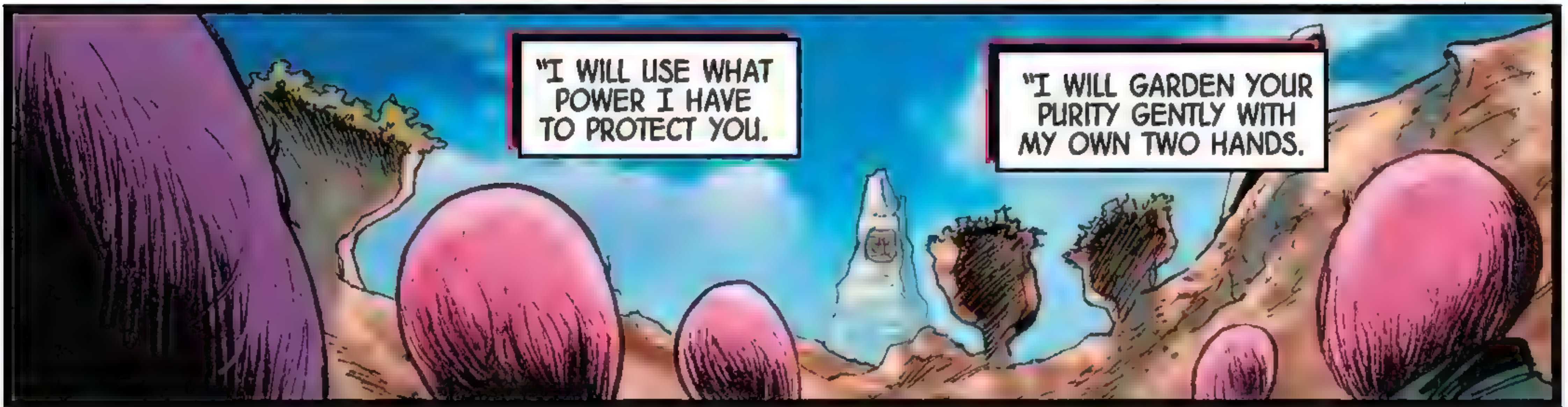
BUT
PROTECTION...



"...THAT I
CAN GIVE."



YOU NEED
NEVER KNOW YOUR
GOD IS DEAD. YOU ARE
FREE TO LIVE AND
BELIEVE IN HIM AS
YOU CHOOSE.



"I WILL USE WHAT
POWER I HAVE
TO PROTECT YOU.

"I WILL GARDEN YOUR
PURITY GENTLY WITH
MY OWN TWO HANDS.

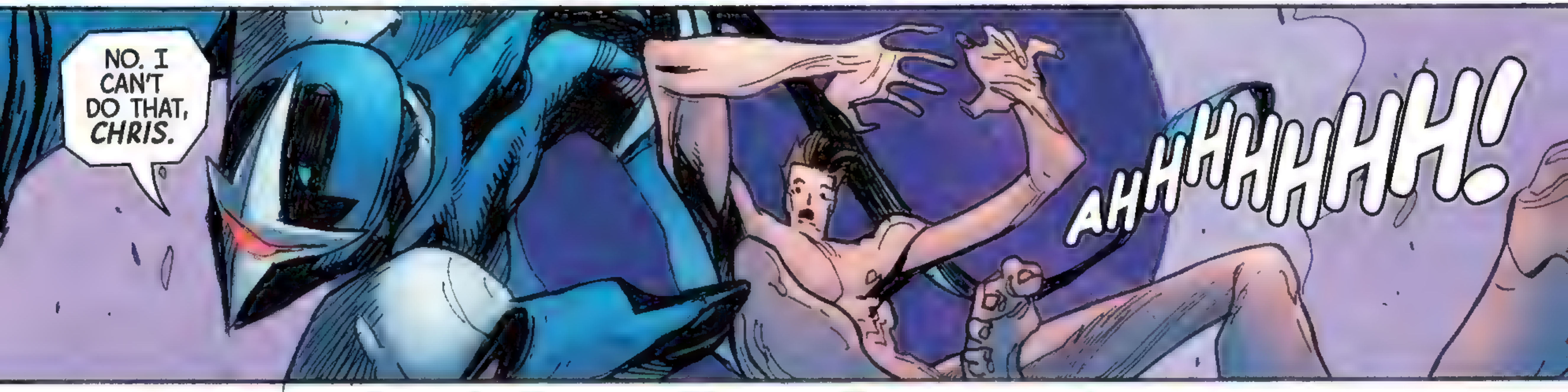
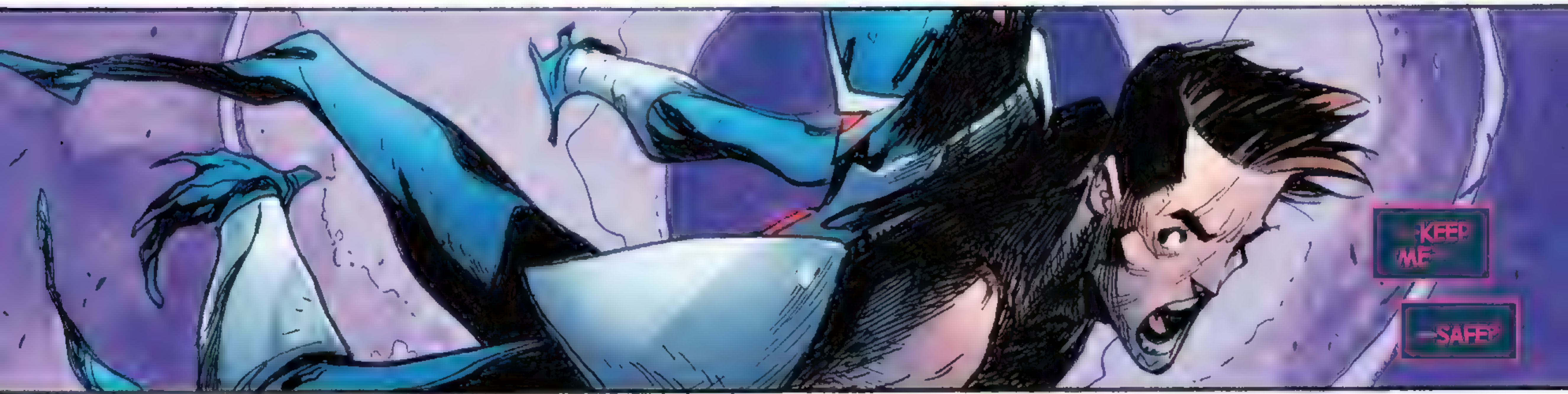
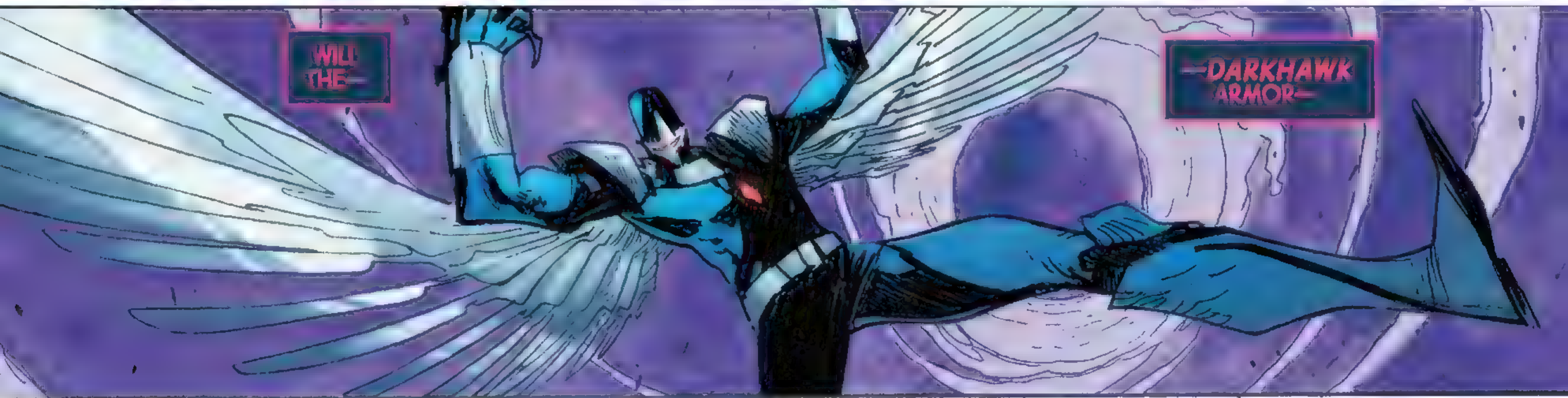


"AND I WILL PROTECT
YOU FROM THE TRUTH
OF YOUR GOD."



YOU'RE ONLY YOUNG TWICE

BY JACQUELINE LEE AND MICHAEL I. MCCOY



THE BLACK
ORDER'S TEAR
IN SPACE

HAS TORN
US APART

YOUR ATOMS
ARE BREAKING
DOWN.

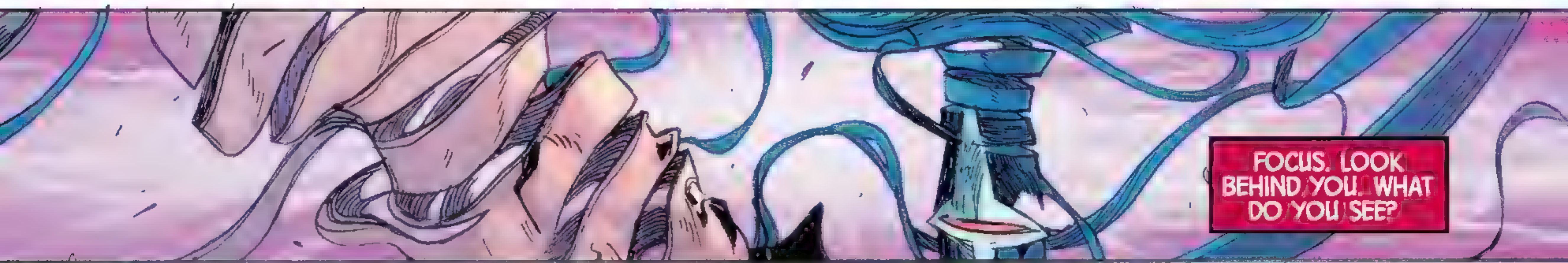
LET
ME IN!

I DON'T
WANT

TO DIE

WE WON'T

NOT IF YOU
WILL IT.



FOCUS. LOOK
BEHIND YOU. WHAT
DO YOU SEE?



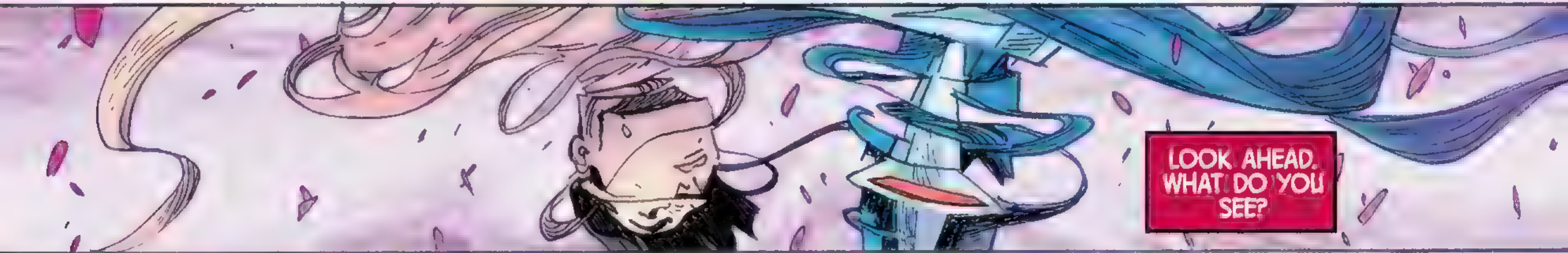
YOU
ME

REMEMBER WHEN WE FOUND THE
AMULET IN THE AMUSEMENT
PARK? IT'S BEEN PART OF US
EVER SINCE. THE SOURCE
OF OUR POWER.

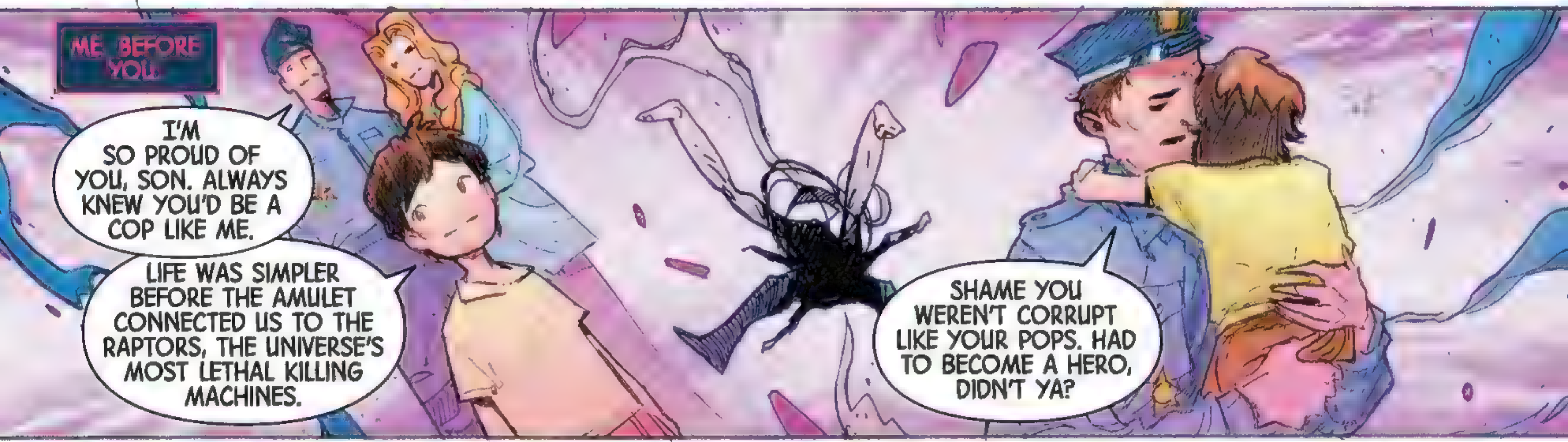
YOU AND
DARKHAWK CAN
NEVER BE IN THE
SAME PLACE.

HARD TO
WRAP YOUR
HEAD AROUND
IT, HUH?

WHEN YOU
BECOME DARKHAWK,
THE PHYSICAL YOU GOES
TO **NULL SPACE**. WHILE
YOUR MIND STAYS IN
THE ARMOR.



LOOK AHEAD.
WHAT DO YOU
SEE?

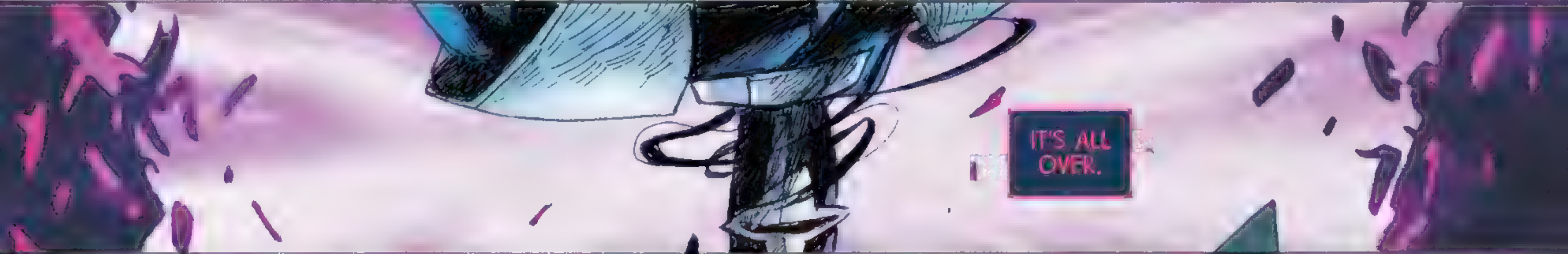


ME BEFORE
YOU

I'M
SO PROUD OF
YOU, SON. ALWAYS
KNEW YOU'D BE A
COP LIKE ME.

LIFE WAS SIMPLER
BEFORE THE AMULET
CONNECTED US TO THE
RAPTORS, THE UNIVERSE'S
MOST LETHAL KILLING
MACHINES.

SHAME YOU
WEREN'T CORRUPT
LIKE YOUR POPS. HAD
TO BECOME A HERO,
DIDN'T YA?



IT'S ALL
OVER.



IT'S ALL
BEGINNING.

SOMEWHERE IN THE BLACK.
SOMETIME LATER.

DARKHAWK? I
CAN'T HEAR YOU.

IDENTITIES
CONFIRMED, SIR.
ONE, DARKHAWK.
TWO, CHRISTOPHER
POWELL OF
EARTH.

GET
THEM INTO
QUARANTINE.
NOW.

WHERE AM I?
WHO ARE YOU?
BACK THE
@%#\$ OFF.

YOU'VE BEEN
CONTAMINATED.

LET US
BLESS YOU WITH
OUR LIGHT.

HAVE FAITH. NO
TELLING WHAT YOU'VE
BROUGHT BACK FROM
THAT BLACK HOLE.

FWAM

ACK!

SCRITCH

DON'T OPEN
THE AIR LOCK!
YOU'LL KILL
US!

KRRSH

PAIN.
THAT'S
NEW.

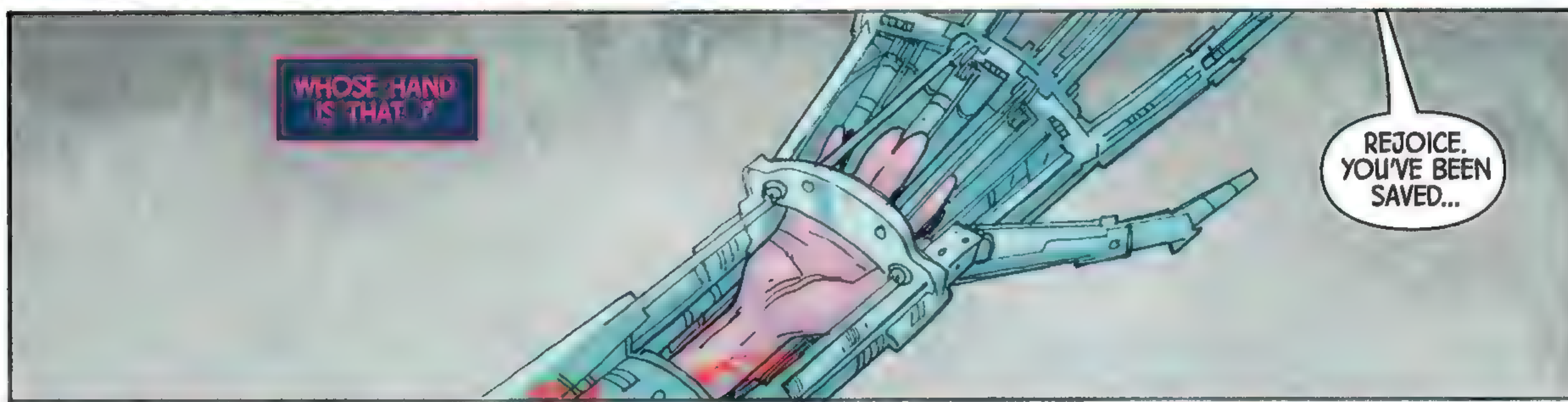


DARKHAWK,
TURN AROUND
SLOWLY!

BLOOD.
THAT'S NEW
TOO



WHAT THE
HELL IS HAPPENING
TO ME?



WHOSE HAND
IS THAT?

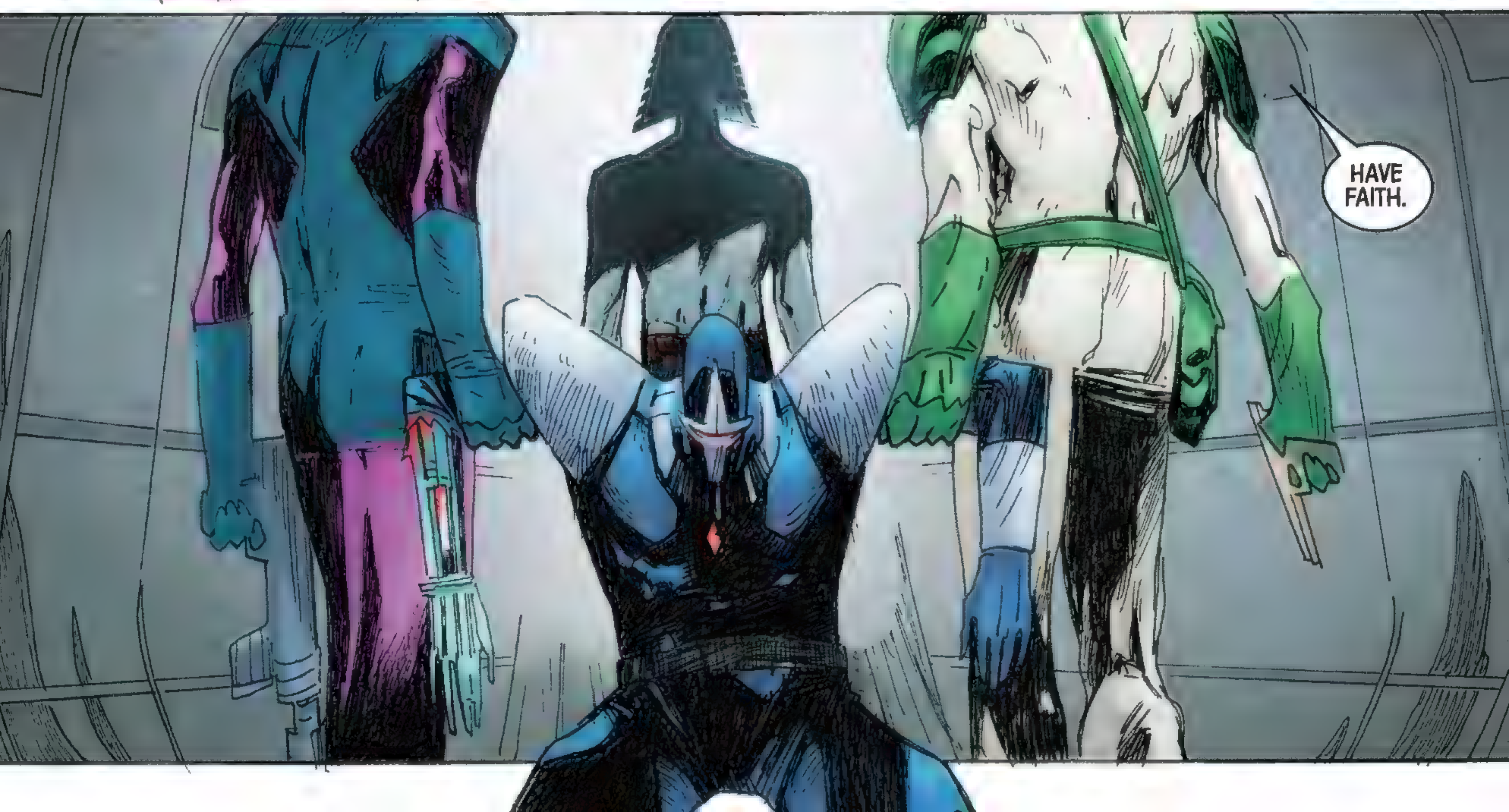
REJOICE.
YOU'VE BEEN
SAVED...



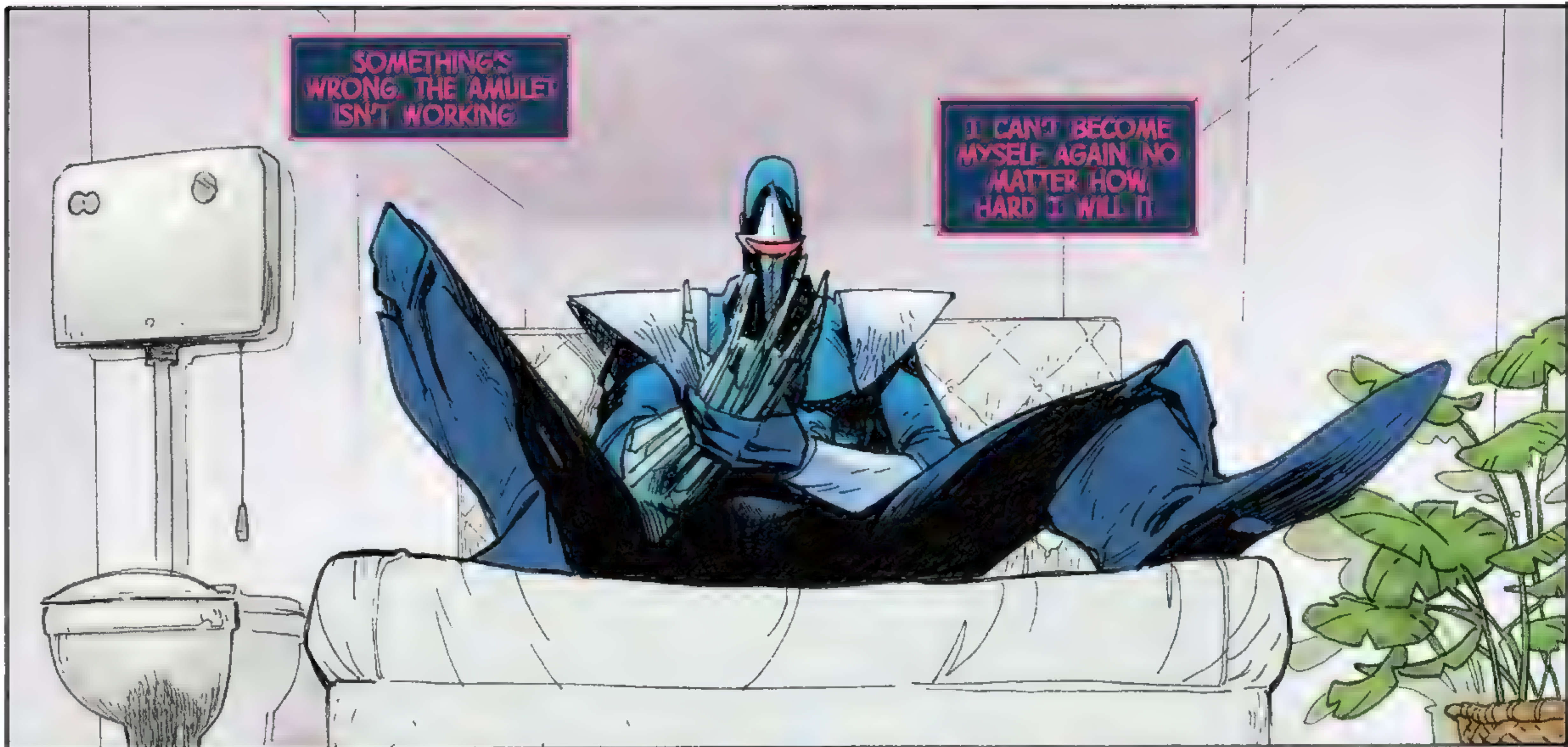
YOU'LL THANK
US ONCE THE
LIGHT CLEANSSES
YOU.

HE'S
ACCEPTED THE
INEVITABLE.
GRAB HIM!

THERE'S NEVER
BEEN FLESH INSIDE
THE ARMOR.

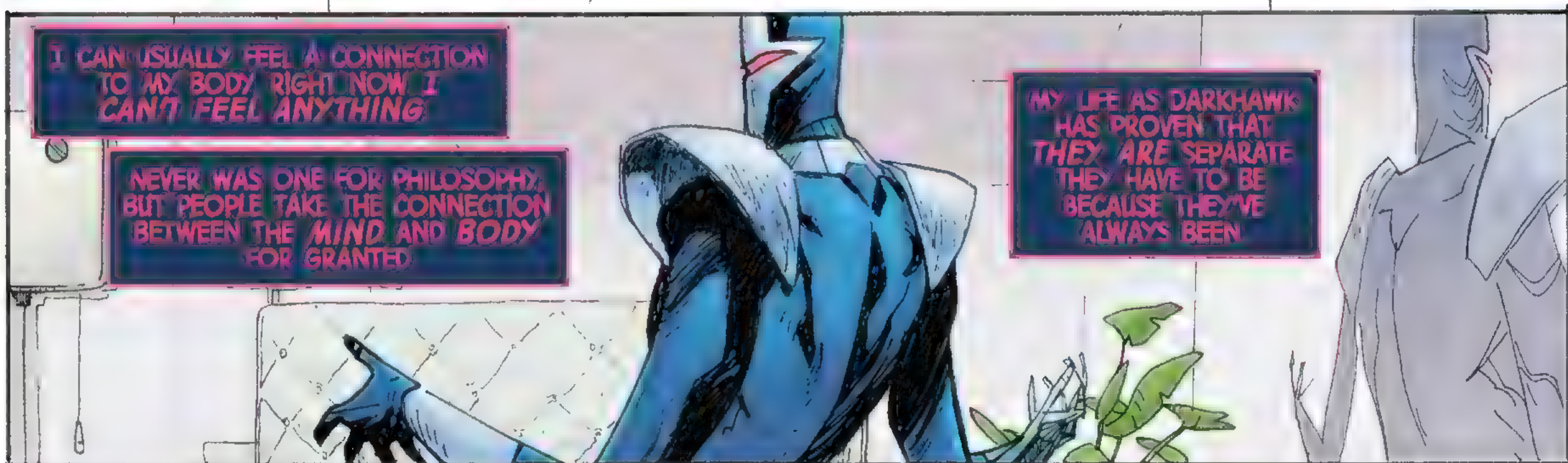


HAVE
FAITH.



SOMETHING'S
WRONG. THE AMULET
ISN'T WORKING.

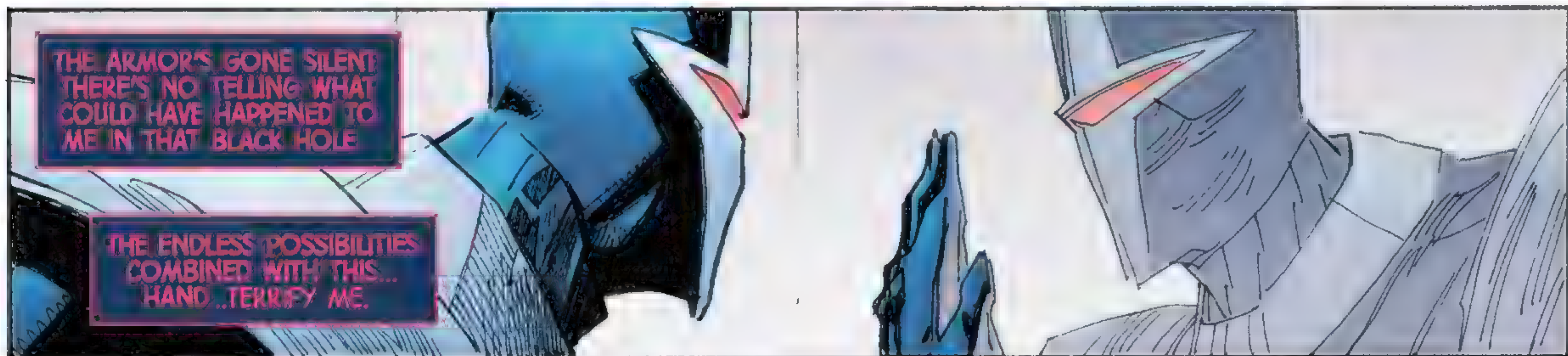
I CAN'T BECOME
MYSELF AGAIN. NO
MATTER HOW
HARD I WILL IT.



I CAN USUALLY FEEL A CONNECTION
TO MY BODY. RIGHT NOW I
CAN'T FEEL ANYTHING.

NEVER WAS ONE FOR PHILOSOPHY,
BUT PEOPLE TAKE THE CONNECTION
BETWEEN THE MIND AND BODY
FOR GRANTED.

MY LIFE AS DARKHAWK
HAS PROVEN THAT
THEY ARE SEPARATE.
THEY HAVE TO BE
BECAUSE THEY'VE
ALWAYS BEEN.



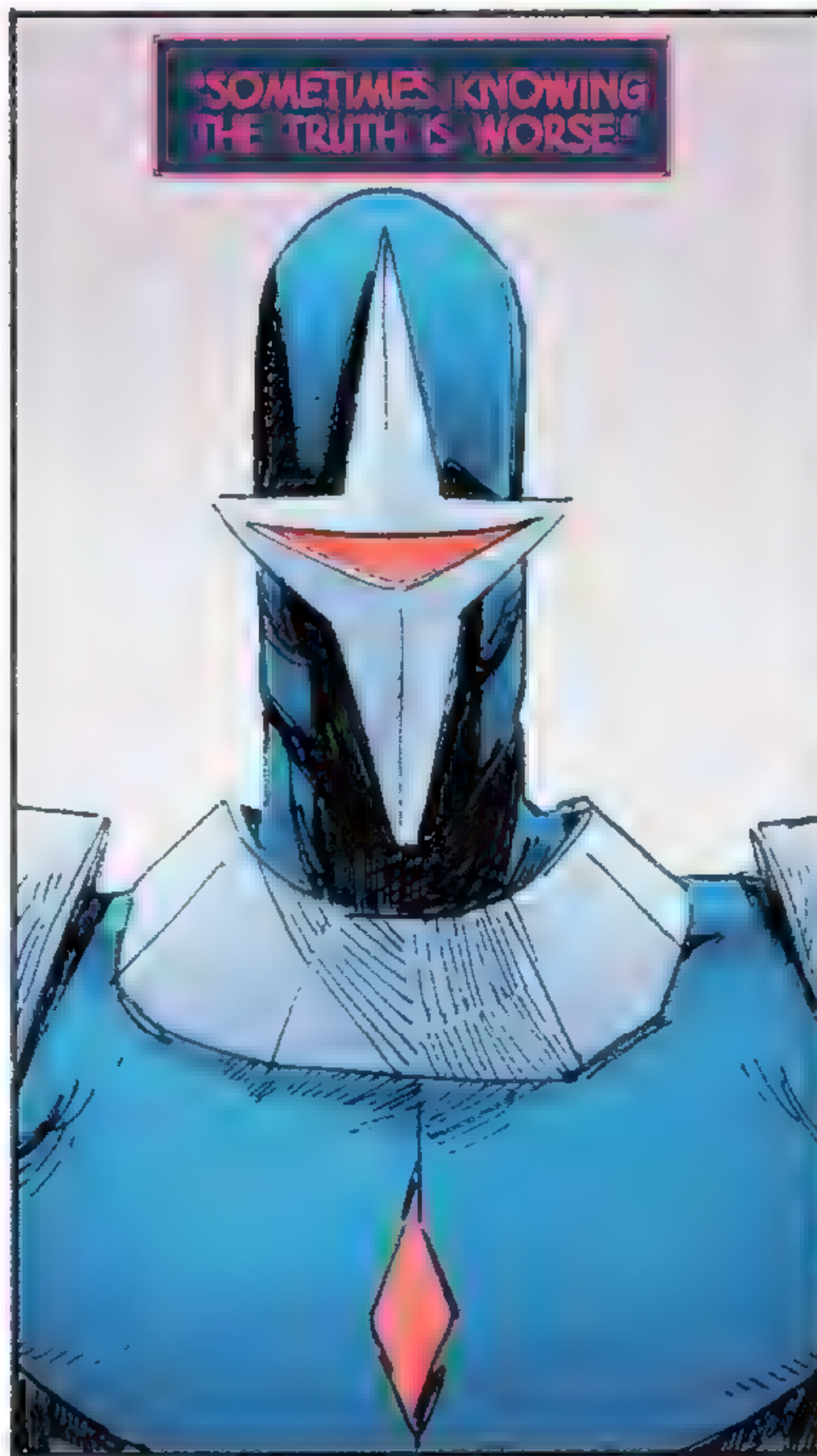
THE ARMOR'S GONE SILENT.
THERE'S NO TELLING WHAT
COULD HAVE HAPPENED TO
ME IN THAT BLACK HOLE.

THE ENDLESS POSSIBILITIES
COMBINED WITH THIS...
HAND... TERRIFY ME.



WHEN I'M SCARED
I CAN'T HELP BUT
THINK OF MY DAD.

HE DID A LOT OF
@S*% THINGS
BUT ONE THING HE
SAID ALWAYS
STUCK WITH ME.



"SOMETIMES KNOWING
THE TRUTH IS WORSE."



MY GOD...

SOME SORT OF
TIME DICATION?

OR DID I
WILL THIS?

ALL MY LIFE I WANTED
TO TAKE OFF THE HELMET
AND SEE MYSELF INSIDE



BUT NO...NO
NOT LIKE THIS

I'M YOUNGER
THAN I WAS
WHEN I FIRST
FOUND THE
AMULET



WHAT
THE #S@%...
I'M A KID?

THIS ISN'T ME
THIS ISN'T
DARKHAWK

HAVE
FAITH.



OKAY.
DARKHAWK IS
OBTAINED.

QUASAR
AS WELL.



AND THE
WARLOCK?

TOO MUCH
INTERFERENCE. CRAZY
TENTACLE SPACE GOD
FIGHT FRY MY
DRONE.

IRRITATINK.



YES, WE'LL
NEED TO DEAL
WITH HIM BEFORE
THIS IS ALL OVER.
YOU'VE DONE
WELL, COSMO.

DA. MUST
BE HAVINK FAITH,
YES? THIS IS
WHAT YOU SAY,
PATRIARCH.



THAT'S
RIGHT, COSMO.
WE MUST HAVE
FAITH.

FOR WE ARE
THE UNIVERSAL
CHURCH OF
TRUTH...



...AND
THE END IS
NIGH.

NOW...

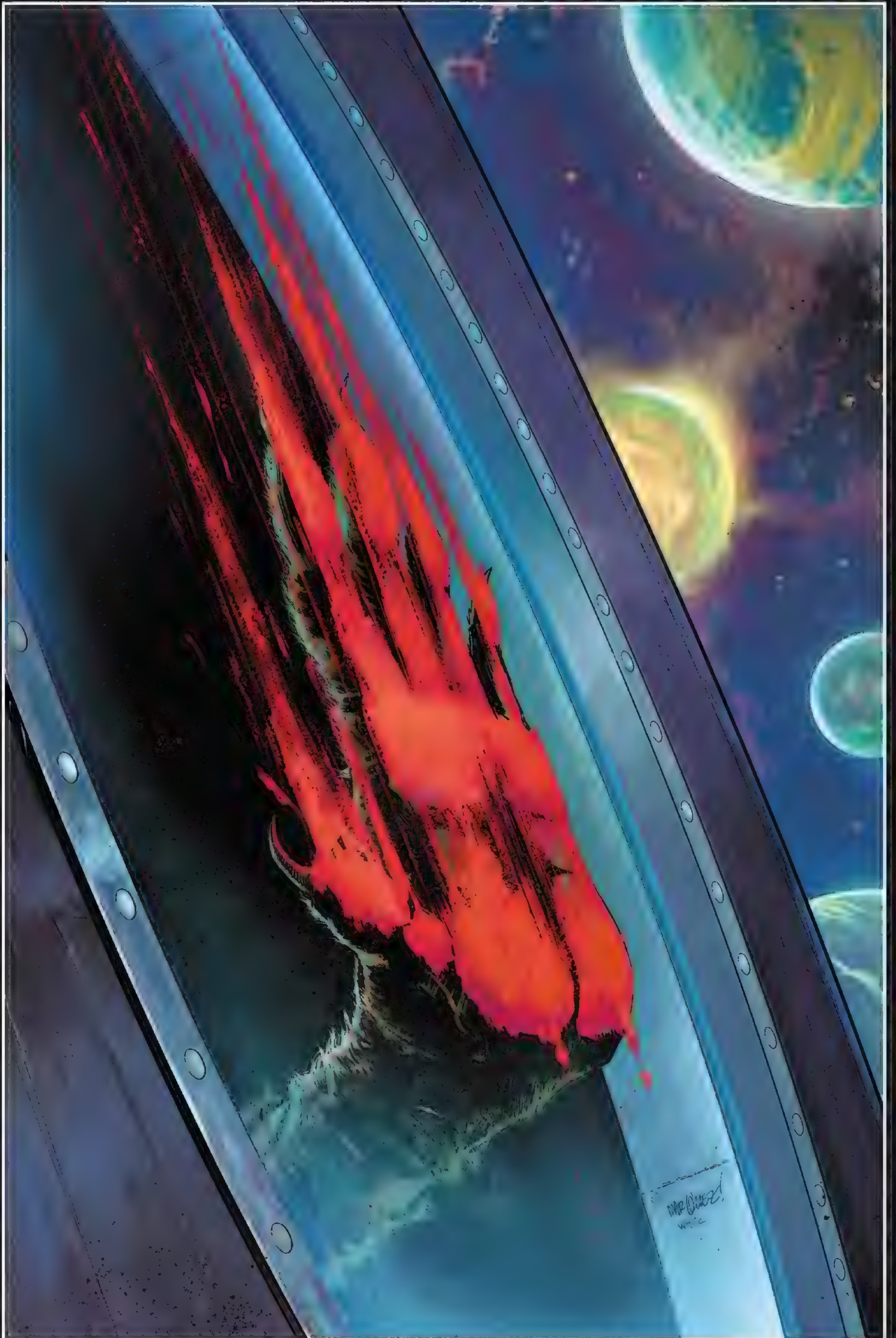


FIND
ME PETER
QUILL.



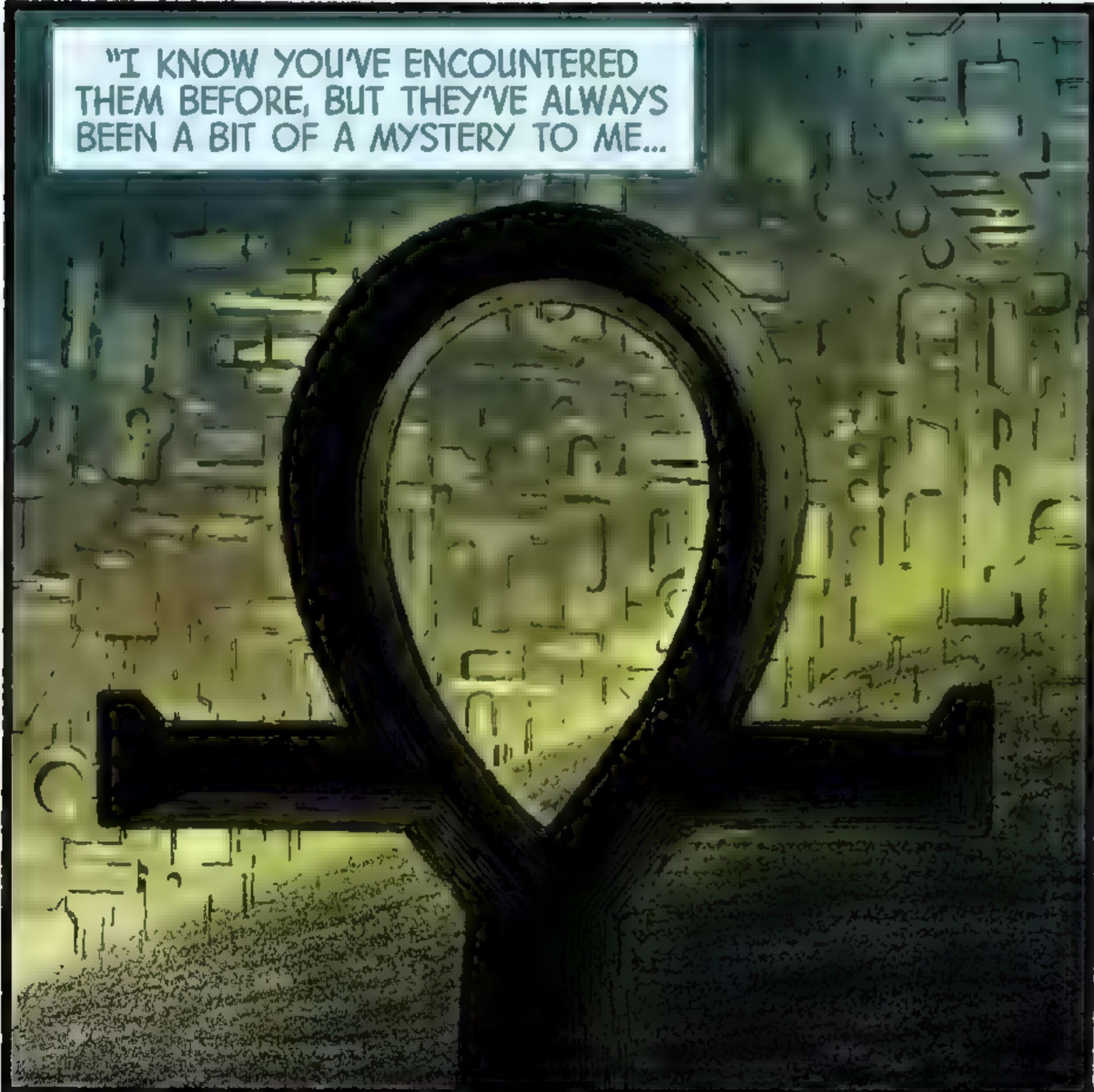
JEN BARTEL
ANNUAL #1 Variant

SEVEN





"HOW MUCH DO YOU
KNOW ABOUT THE
UNIVERSAL CHURCH
OF TRUTH?"



"I KNOW YOU'VE ENCOUNTERED
THEM BEFORE, BUT THEY'VE ALWAYS
BEEN A BIT OF A MYSTERY TO ME..."



"THEY BEGAN AS A KIND OF...CULT
THAT WORSHIPPED ADAM WARLOCK'S
EVIL HALF--*THE MAGUS*, RIGHT?"



"THEIR 'TEMPLESHIPS' HAVE
FAITH ENGINES THAT RUN ON THE
PURE BELIEF OF THEIR FOLLOWERS?"

"SOMETHING
LIKE THAT?"



"EITHER WAY...LOOK, I
KNOW YOU THOUGHT THEY
WERE GONE FOR GOOD."

"WELL, THEY'RE *BACK*.
AND WHATEVER IT IS
YOU THOUGHT YOU KNEW
ABOUT THE UNIVERSAL
CHURCH OF TRUTH..."

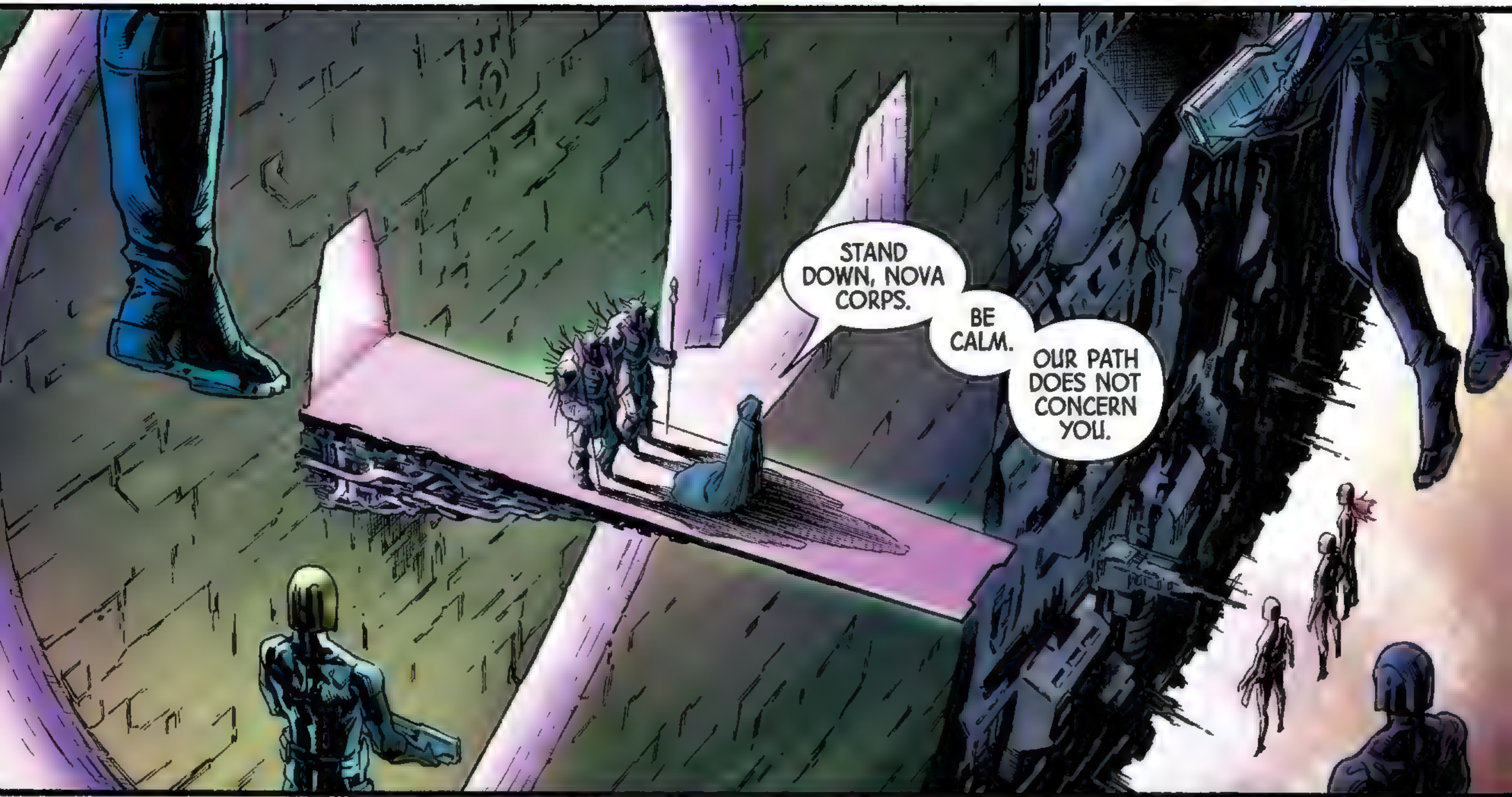
CATHEDRAL.
FLAGSHIP TEMPLE-DESTROYER OF THE UNIVERSAL CHURCH OF TRUTH.
EMERGING INTO REAL SPACE FROM THE HYPER STAR LANES OF ABLAN.

"...GO AHEAD AND
FORGET ABOUT IT.

"BECAUSE I'M PRETTY
SURE THE GAME JUST
CHANGED.







STAND
DOWN, NOVA
CORPS.

BE
CALM.

OUR PATH
DOES NOT
CONCERN
YOU.



'FRAID IT
ALREADY
HAS.

WE'RE GOING TO NEED YOU AND
YOUR MEN TO DROP YOUR
WEAPONS, SHUT YOUR ENGINES
DOWN AND PREPARE TO
BE BOARDED.



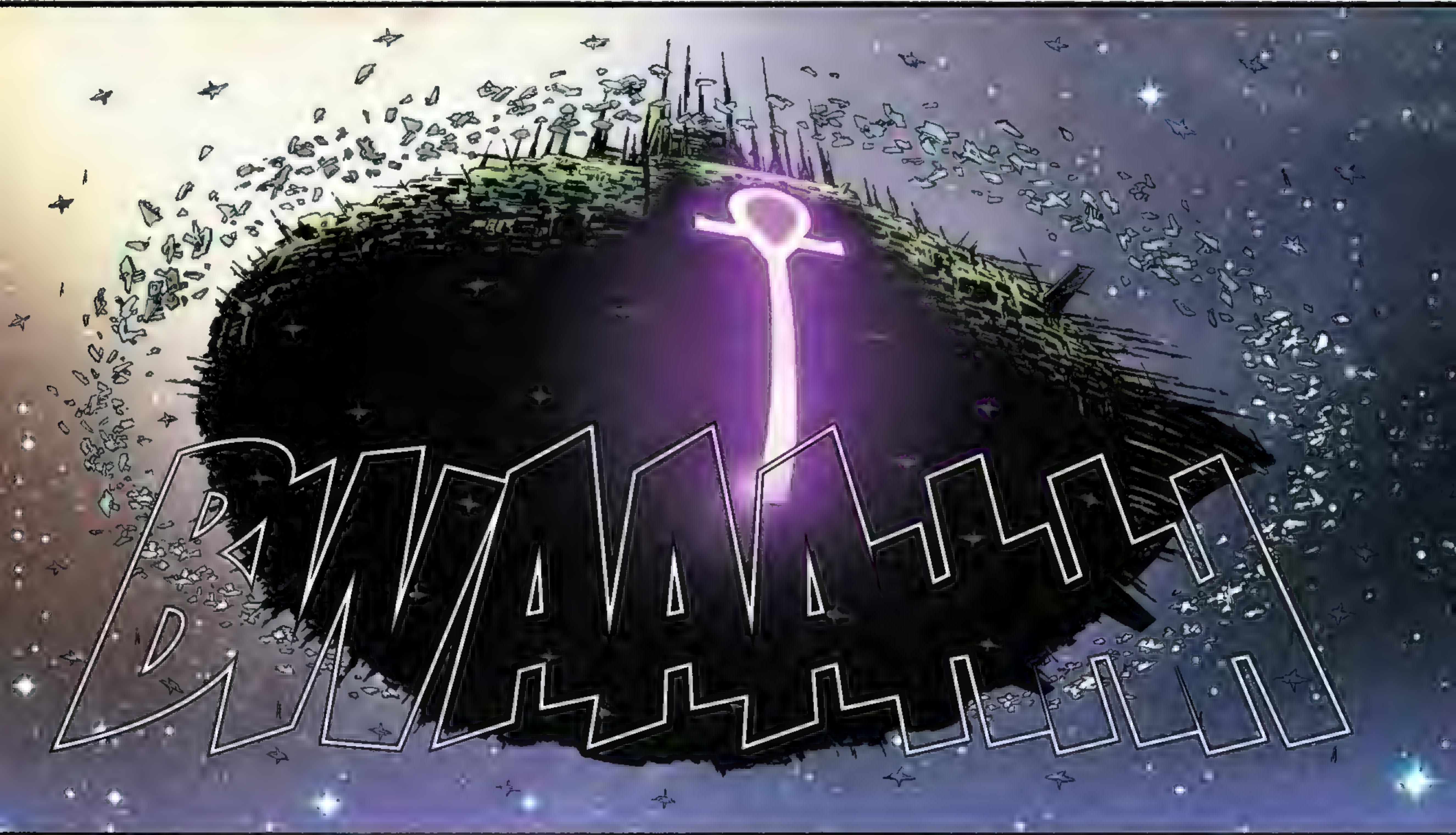
AH.
WELL...

...LET IT BE
RECORDED IN
YOUR WORLDMIND
THAT I GAVE YOU
A CHANCE.



BLESS YOU
ALL FOR YOUR
SACRIFICE.

HAVE
FAITH.



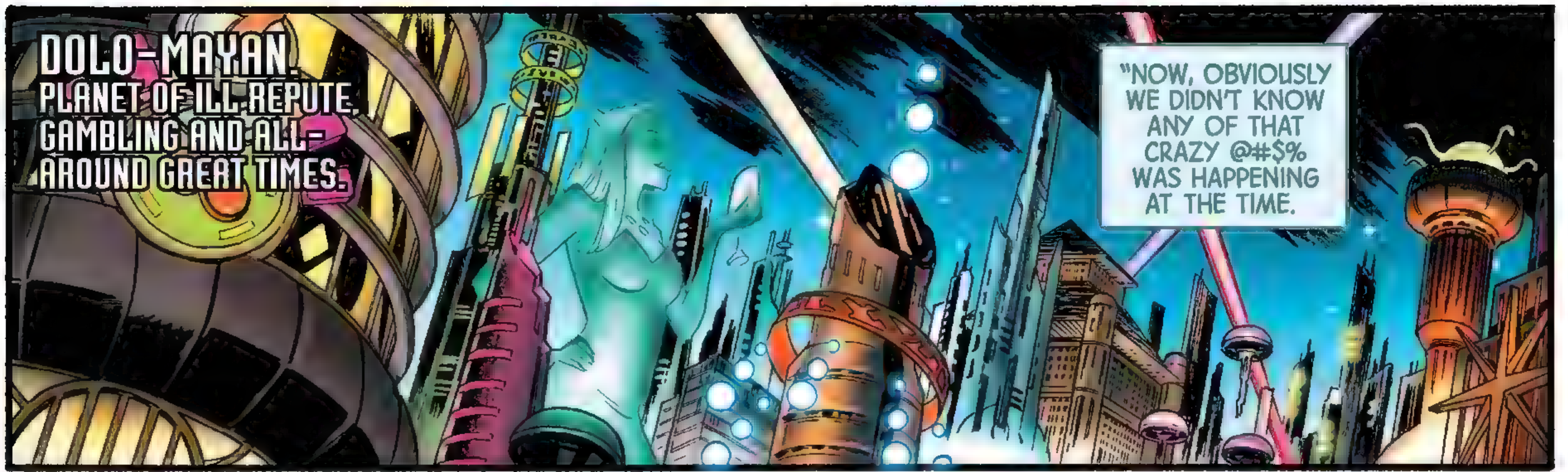
BRRAA



FAITH...

WHAT ARE YOU
DOING? NOVA MARKUS, IF
YOU REMOVE YOUR HELMET
YOU WILL ALL DIE! I
REPEAT, DO NOT--





DOLO-MAYAN.
PLANET OF ILL-REPUTE.
GAMBLING AND ALL-
AROUND GREAT TIMES.

"NOW, OBVIOUSLY
WE DIDN'T KNOW
ANY OF THAT
CRAZY @#\$\$%
WAS HAPPENING
AT THE TIME.



"WE WERE
ALL A LITTLE...
DISTRACTED.

WELL...



...I'LL ADMIT, I
THOUGHT YOU'D TAKE
A LITTLE LONGER TO THINK
ABOUT THE WHOLE ME-
TELLING-YOU-I-LOVED-
YOU THING.

YEAH, WELL.
IT'S LIKE YOU
SAID...



...WE
DIE A
LOT.

WHY
WASTE
TIME?



YEAH.
SPEAKING
OF WHICH...



WHERE ARE YOU GOING?

VACATIONING ON THE PLANET OF SIN IS FUN, BUT EVENTUALLY WE GOTTA GET BACK TO IT.

GROOT WON US A NEW SHIP PLAYING SOME INSANE SHI'AR-RULES BACKGAMMON. I WANNA GO SEE IT BEFORE HE AIRBRUSHES A WEREWOLF IN A BIKINI ON IT OR WHATEVER.

IT HAVE A NAME YET?

I WAS THINKING OF THE GELLAR. OR MAYBE THE BALK OR THE--



CAN IT BE A PRETTY EARTH MAN THIS TIME? DOES EARTH HAVE PRETTY MEN?

OUCH. I'LL GET YOU A LIST WITH SOME PICTURES ON IT AND YOU CAN--

KNOCK KNOCK

PETER! IT'S GROOT!



YOU NEED TO COME AND SEE THIS! NOW!

UHHHHH...



HEY, MAN. CAN YOU GIVE ME A SEC? I HAVE TO--

GROOT KNOWS GAMORA IS IN THERE. EVERYONE KNOWS. NO ONE CARES. YOU GUYS AREN'T SLICK.

FAIR ENOUGH. STILL, THOUGH. CAN YOU--



PETER.

YOU NEED TO SEE THIS.





PETER. IT'S...
IT'S YOUR FATHER,
J'SON. I'M NOT SURE IF
YOU'RE RECEIVING VISUALS
OR NOT. OUR
COMMUNICATIONS HAVE
BEEN SPOTTY.

I'M SENDING
YOU THIS BECAUSE...
WELL, THINGS AREN'T GREAT
OUT HERE. A SHIP APPEARED
IN THE MIDDLE OF NOWHERE
CLAIMING TO BE THE
UNIVERSAL CHURCH OF
TRUTH, BUT...

...THEY AREN'T
LIKE ANYTHING
WE'VE EVER SEEN
BEFORE.

THE NOVA CORPS
WENT TO INVESTIGATE,
BUT...THE CHURCH FIRED
SOMETHING AT THEM
AND THEY...

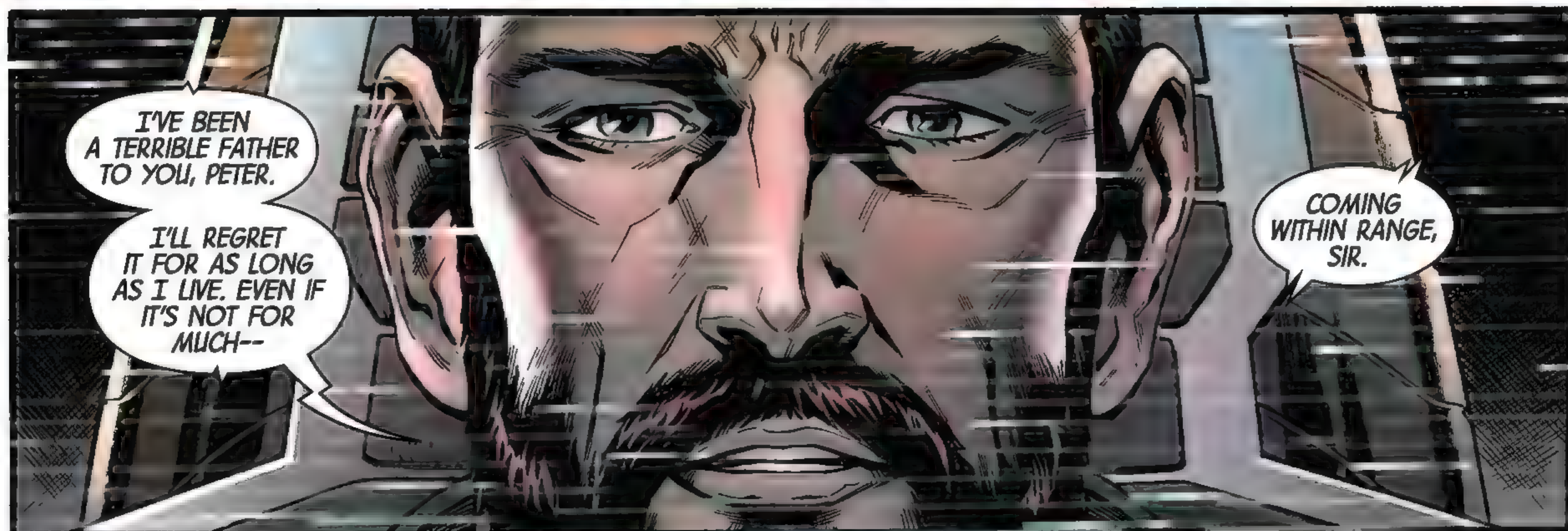
...THEY'RE GONE.
ALL OF THEM. THE
ENTIRE NOVA CORPS
IS DEAD. AND NOW...
NOW WE'RE
AT WAR.

I'VE VOLUNTEERED
THE SPARTAX FLEET TO
MAN THE FRONT LINES
AGAINST THEM. BUT IF OUR
REPORTS ARE ANY
INDICATION, THIS...



...THIS MIGHT BE
THE LAST CHANCE I
HAVE TO TELL YOU
HOW SORRY I AM
FOR HOW I'VE...

I'VE...



I'VE BEEN
A TERRIBLE FATHER
TO YOU, PETER.

I'LL REGRET
IT FOR AS LONG
AS I LIVE. EVEN IF
IT'S NOT FOR
MUCH--

COMING
WITHIN RANGE,
SIR.

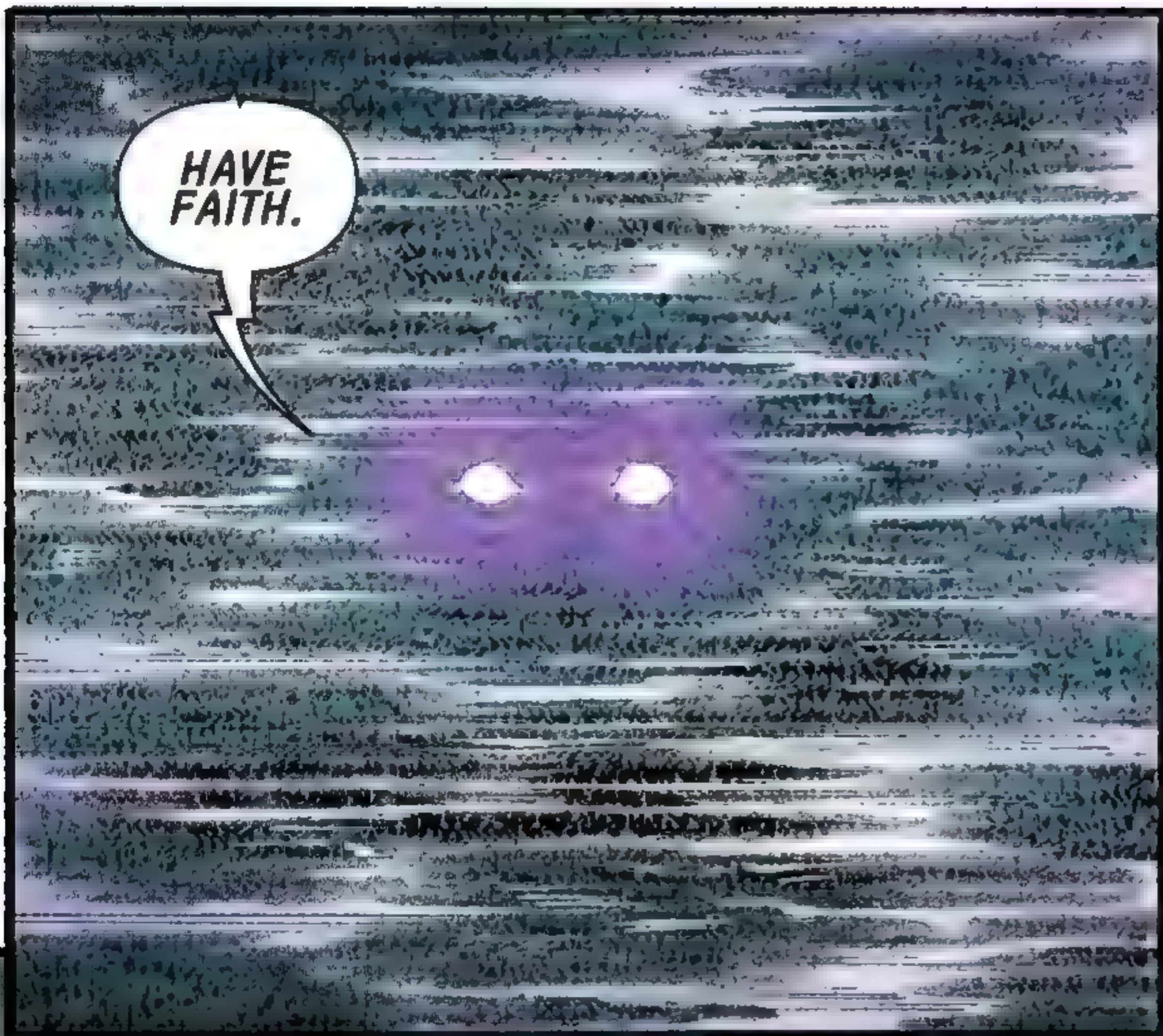


MY GOD...WHAT IS...



DO NOT COME HERE, SON! DO NOT COME OUT HERE! YOU HAVE TO RUN!

I'M SORRY! I'M SO SOR--



HAVE FAITH.



...DAD?

PETER, GROOT IS SO SORRY. THAT'S THE LAST OF THE MESSAGE. IT CAME IN A FEW MINUTES AGO, AND WE--

PLOT ME A COURSE.

NOW.



"LOOKING BACK ON IT, WE NEVER EVEN TALKED ABOUT THE MISSION. NEVER QUESTIONED THE CHOICE TO GO IN.

THIS IS CAPTAIN PETER QUILL BROADCASTING FROM THE *STARSHIP BOWIE*, REQUESTING LAST KNOWN COORDINATES OF THE SPARTAX FLEET.

ANYONE, PLEASE COME IN.



"WE ALL KNEW THAT...IF THE SHOE HAD BEEN ON THE OTHER FOOT, PETER WOULDN'T HAVE THOUGHT ABOUT IT EITHER.

ANYONE? IS ANYONE OUT THERE?

PLEASE COME IN...

(DAMMIT.)



"HE'D JUMP INTO HELL FOR ANY ONE OF US.

OKAY, LISTEN UP. WE'RE GOING IN. LOCKJAW IS GOING TO TELEPORT US ONTO THAT MONSTER.

DRAGON, YOU STAY HERE. PSI-LINK US SO OUR COMMS DON'T FAIL.



"SO THAT'S... THAT'S WHAT WE DID.

SAME WITH YOU, GROOT. I WANT YOU AT THE HELM WITH THE ENGINES HOT IN CASE WE NEED TO BURN THIS PLACE.



"WE JUMPED...

EVERYONE ELSE WITH ME.

"...INTO
HELL.

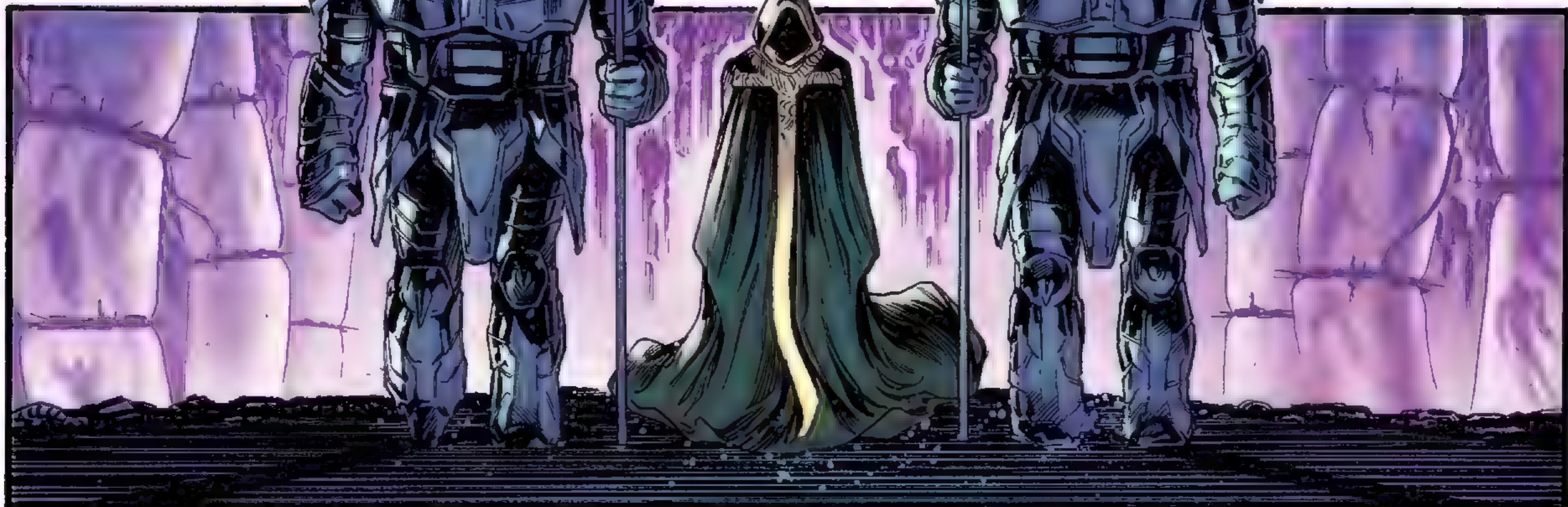
MY
GOD...

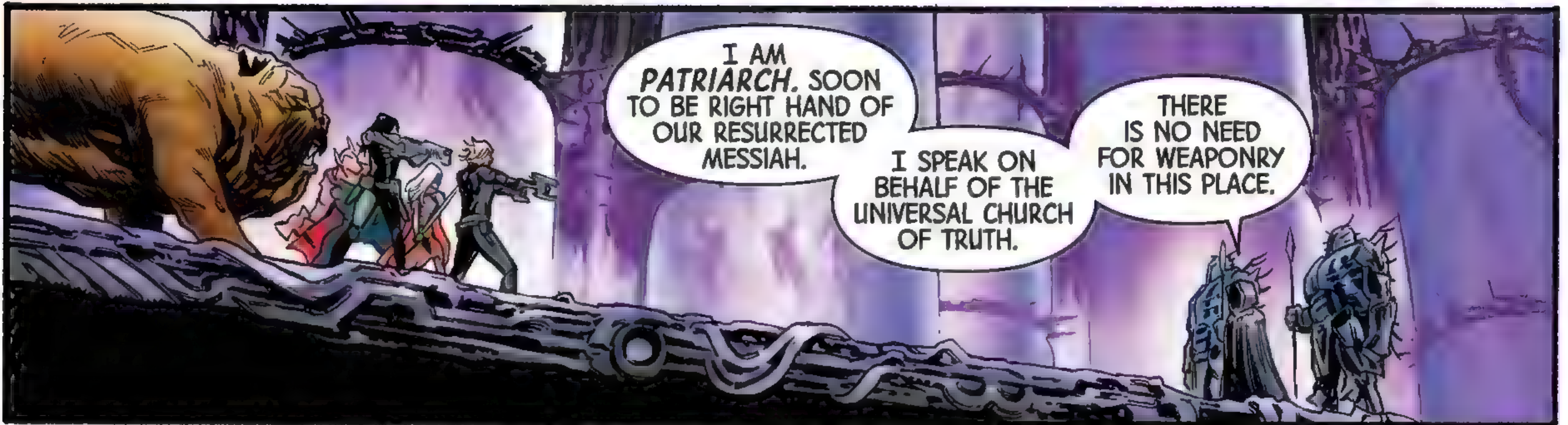


WHERE
ARE WE?

YOU ARE
IN THE ENGINE
ROOM OF THE
CATHEDRAL.

AND YOU
ARE WELCOME
HERE, PETER.







"I FELT IT ALL. I WAS
IN THEIR HEADS AS IT
RIPPED THEM APART.

HGGHH!!!

"THIS UNIVERSAL CHURCH OF
TRUTH ISN'T LIKE THE ONES
YOU FOUGHT BEFORE.
THEY'RE FROM THE *FUTURE*."

MOONDRAGON!

C-C-COLD,
ALONE. MIS-MISERY,
HATE, F-FAITH.
H-HAVE--



"THEIR ENGINES
AREN'T POWERED
BY FAITH.

DRAGON,
LISTEN TO
GROOT!
WHAT IS--

H-HAVE...
DEATH, FAITH,
DEATH...

GRRRR-
GROOT!



"THEY'RE
POWERED
BY *LIFE*."

RUN!!!

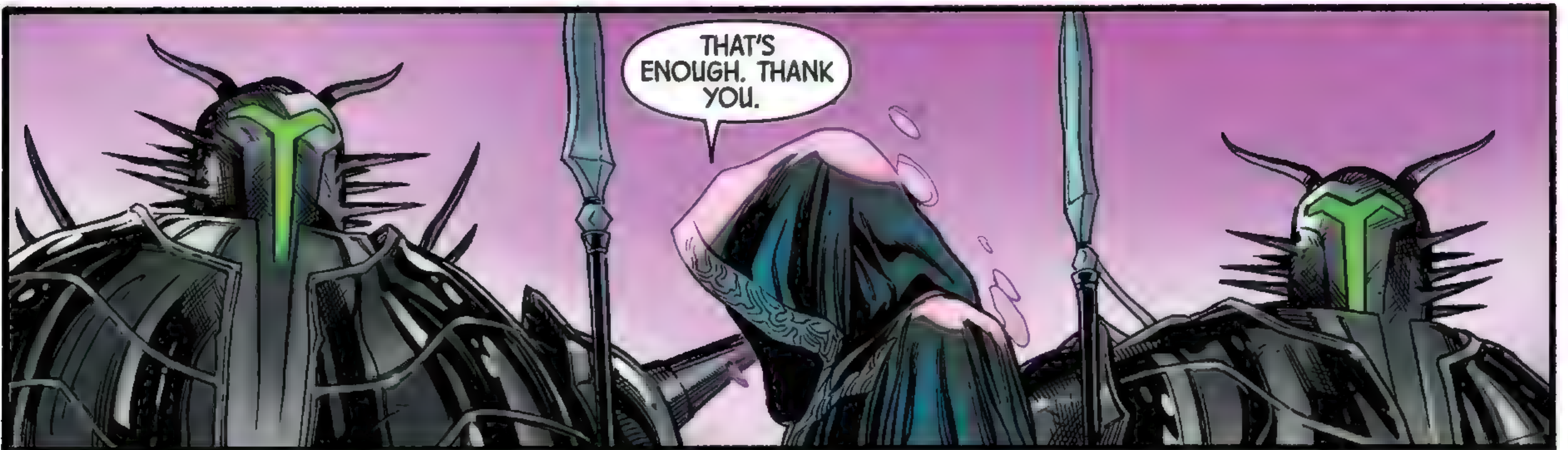


"THEY STEAL
YOUR *WILL*
TO LIVE."



C-COLD.
N-NO POINT...
GIVE...IN...HAVE--
HAVE--

HAVE
FAITH.
YES.



THAT'S
ENOUGH. THANK
YOU.



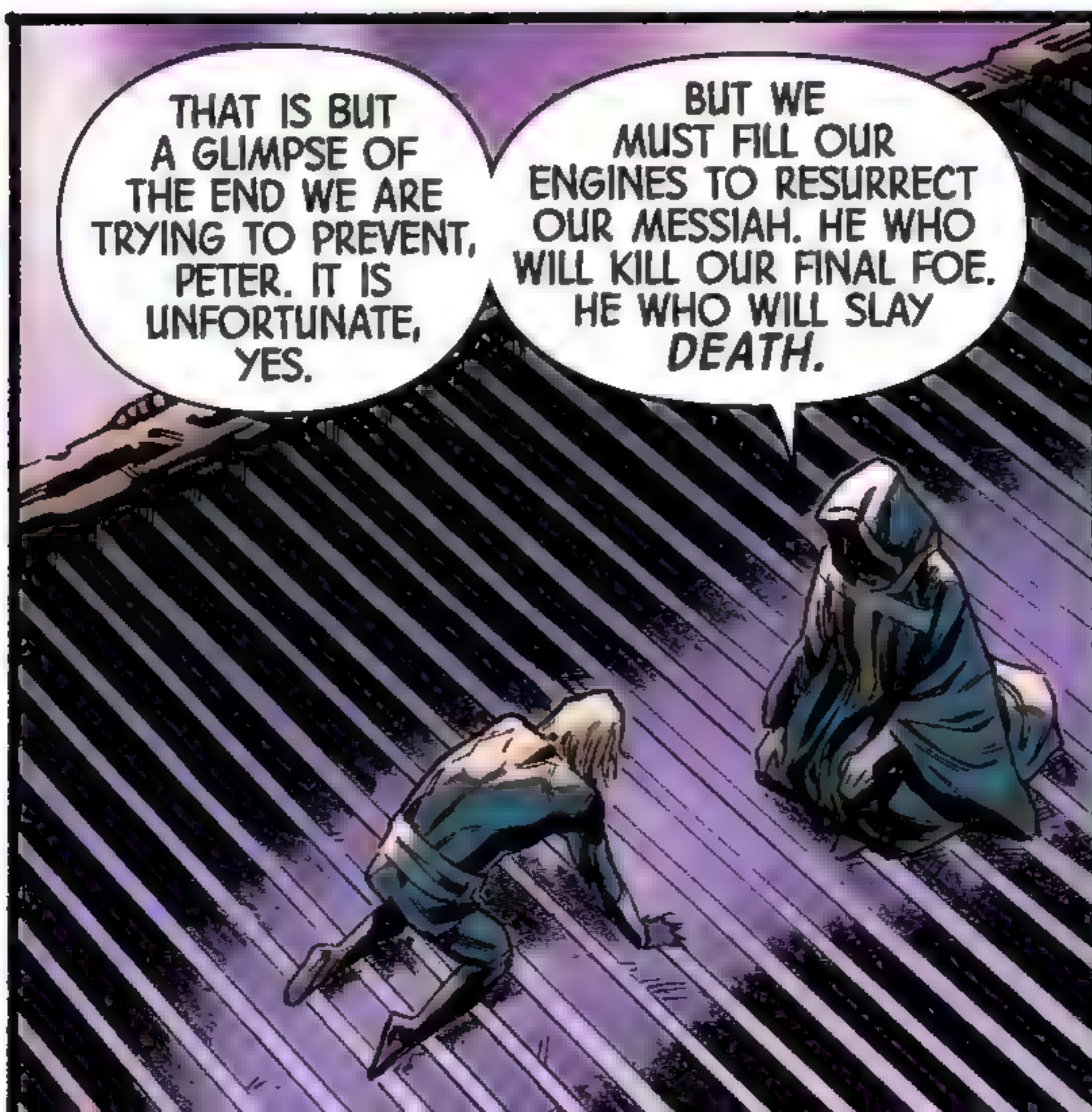
AGH!



WH-WHAT
WAS THAT?
WHY...



OH GOD...
NO...
NO...



THAT IS BUT
A GLIMPSE OF
THE END WE ARE
TRYING TO PREVENT,
PETER. IT IS
UNFORTUNATE,
YES.

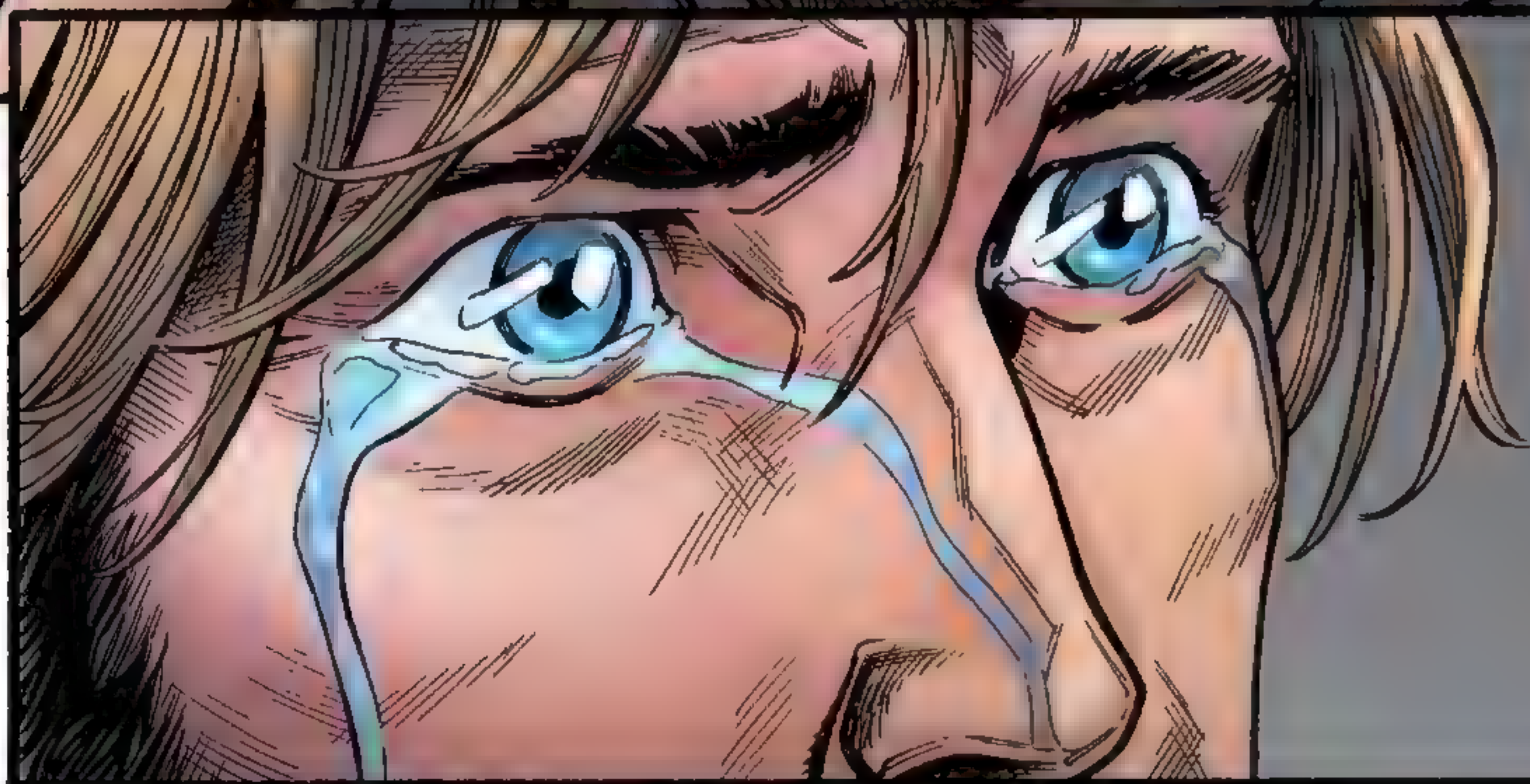
BUT WE
MUST FILL OUR
ENGINES TO RESURRECT
OUR MESSIAH. HE WHO
WILL KILL OUR FINAL FOE.
HE WHO WILL SLAY
DEATH.



IT IS WHY
I BROUGHT
YOU HERE. WHY I
SENT YOU THAT
MESSAGE...



I WANT
YOU TO SEE
THE GLORY,
SON.



DAD?



YOU NEED
TO REST, MY SON.
YOU HAVE MUCH
TO LEARN.

TAKE HIM TO
HIS QUARTERS,
PLEASE.



HAVE
FAITH.

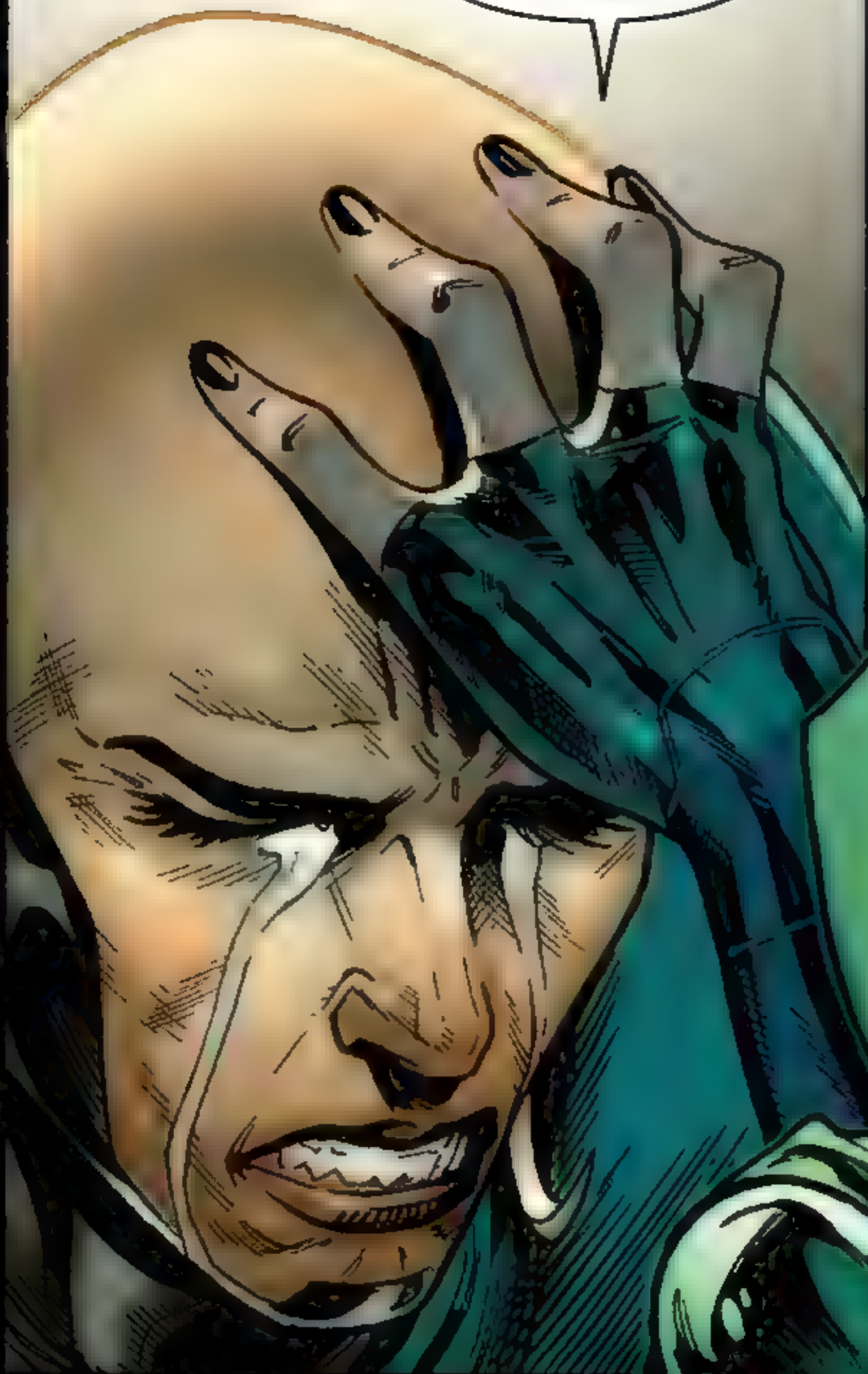
NO...



I CAN STILL...
I CAN STILL FEEL
THEIR PAIN. I CAN
STILL HEAR MY...



I CAN
STILL HEAR
MY WIFE CRYING
TO ME.



WE'RE ALL
THAT'S LEFT. US...
AND YOU.

I DON'T
KNOW WHAT YOUR
DEAL IS. I KNOW
EVERYONE ON THIS TEAM
SEEMS TO HATE YOU,
BUT YOU HAVE TO
HELP US SAVE
OUR--

YEAH,
YEAH, YEAH.
FINE.



END-OF-THE-
WORLD DEATH-
CULT STUFF.

YEAH.
I'M IN.



I MEAN,
HELL...





...WHAT
ELSE DO
I HAVE TO
LOSE?



INHYUK LEE
ANNUAL #1 Bring on the Bad Guys variant





ROCKET.
I NEED YOU
TO SHOW ME
WHAT HAPPENED
TO YOU.

GET OUTTA
MY HEAD,
HEATHER.

I DON'T
OWE YOU
NOTHIN'.

I'M
AFRAID YOU
DO.

I KNOW HOW
HARD THIS MUST
BE FOR YOU,
BUT--

YOU DON'T KNOW
NOTHIN' ABOUT
HARD! NOW
GET OUTTA MY--



THAT IS
ENOUGH!

OUR FRIENDS,
YOUR FRIENDS, ARE
IN DANGER. I NEED
TO KNOW IF YOU
CAN DO THIS.

STOP BEING
A COWARD AND
SHOW US--

FINE!

YOU
WANNA
SEE IT?!

YOU
WANNA SEE
HURT?!

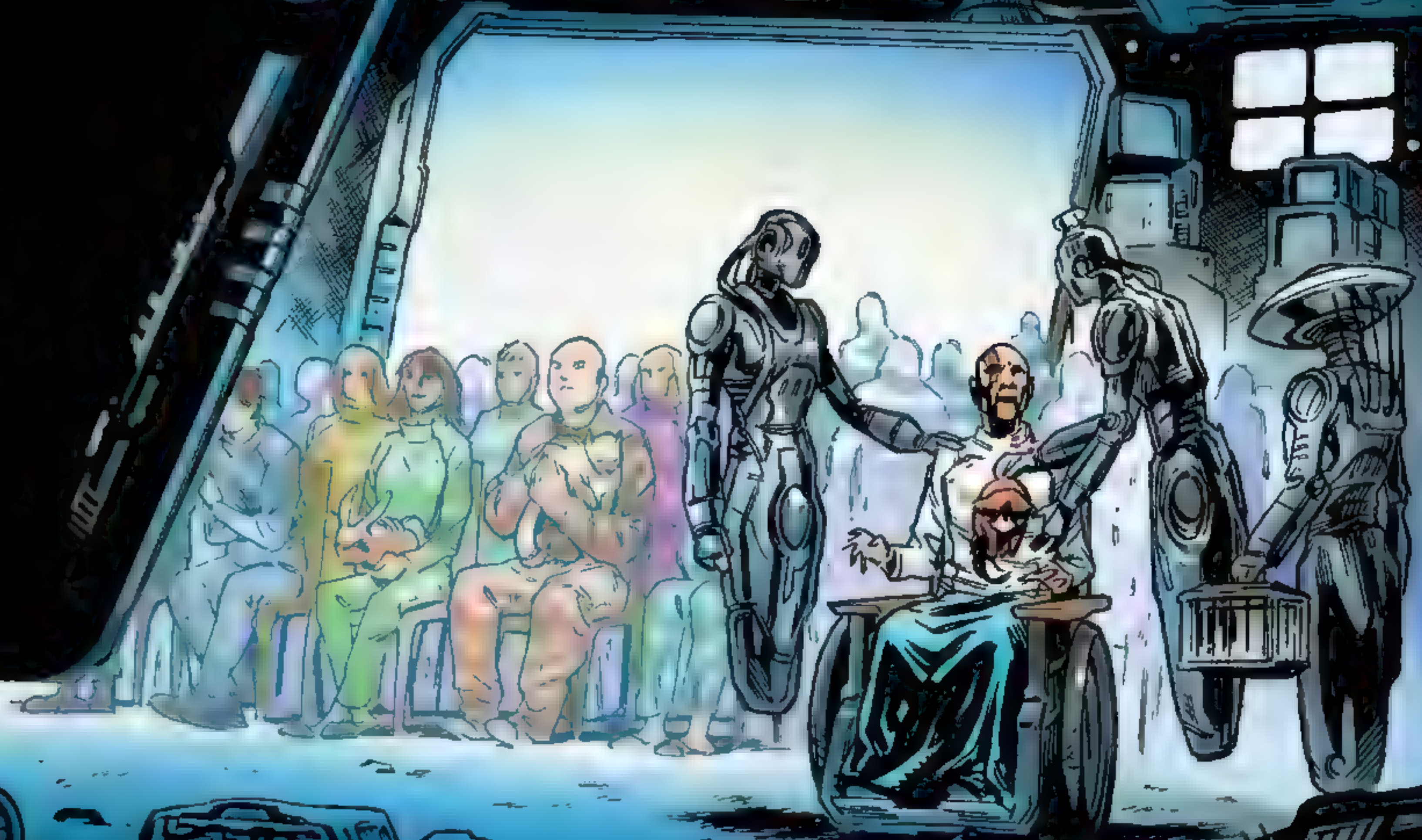
HALFWORLD.
A LONG TIME AGO...

I'LL
SHOW YOU
HURT.



I WAS BORN
ON HALFWORLD.

A GALACTIC INSANE ASYLUM
BUILT BY SOME KINDA
SCIENTISTS WHO THOUGHT A
PLANET FULL 'A CRAZIES
WAS A GOOD IDEA.

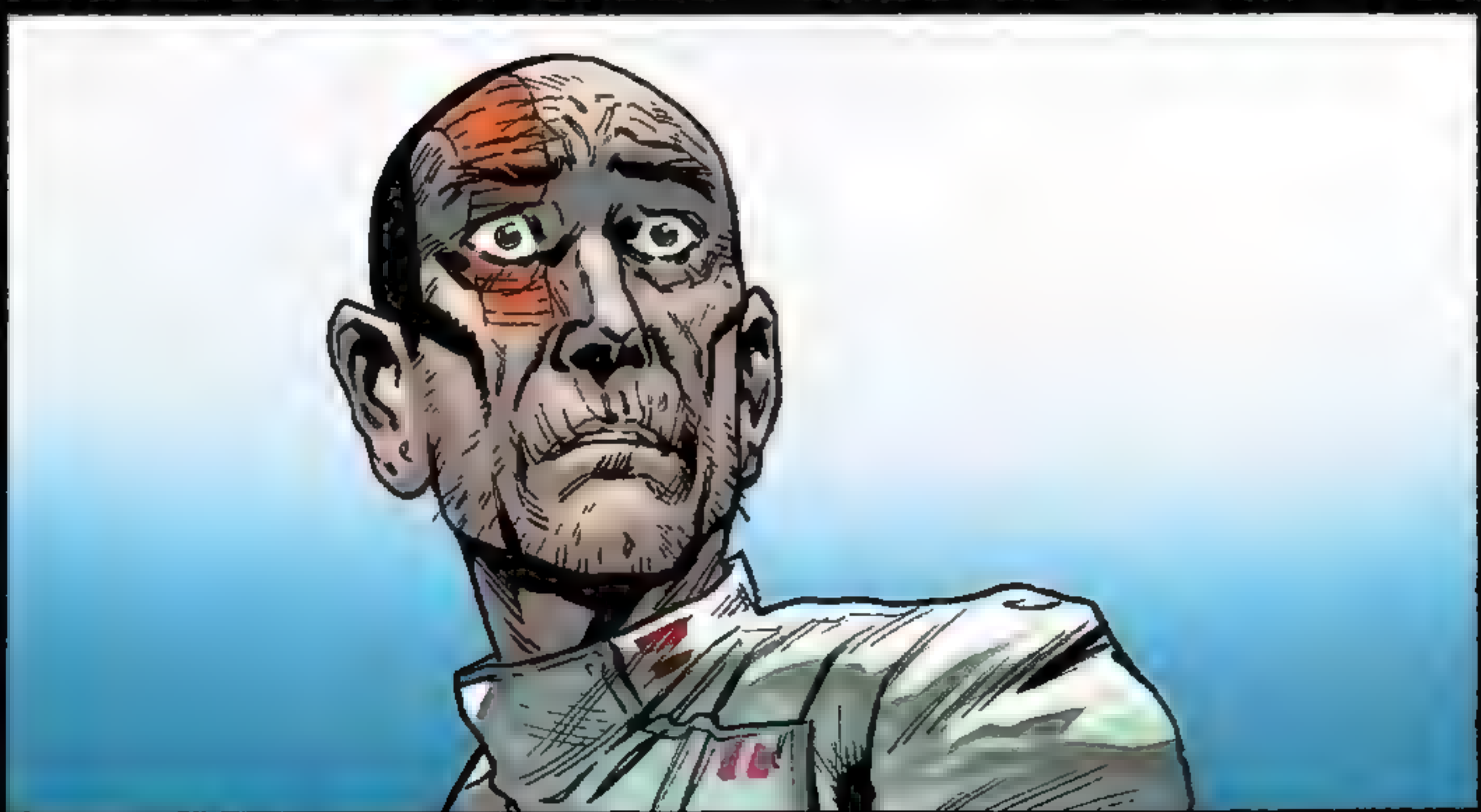


I WAS BRED TO BE
A...A KIND OF SERVICE
ANIMAL, I GUESS.

SOMETHING SOFT
TO HELP CALM THE
PATIENTS DOWN.

MY GUY...MY PATIENT,
HIS NAME WAS **KHEVIX**.
A WAR VET WITH A MOUTH
LIKE A SAILOR AND
SOME...BAD DREAMS.

HE LIKED ME TO SIT IN
HIS LAP WHILE WE
WATCHED THESE DUMB
OLD WAR MOVIES.



HE WAS...

...HE WAS
GOOD TO ME.

HE WAS THE
LAST ONE WHO
EVER WAS.

AGHHH!!!

THE SCIENTISTS WHO
FOUNDED THIS PLACE
ALL LEFT THE PLANET
WHEN IT GOT TOO ROUGH
FOR 'EM, I GUESS.

THEY PUT THE CARE OF THE
PATIENTS INTO THE HANDS
OF THE ROBOTIC STAFF.

AND THEY...THE @#\$%
ROBOTS GAVE THE JOB
TO *US* WHEN THEY
COULDN'T HANDLE THE
MENTAL PATIENTS, EITHER...

AS FAR AS THE
ACTUAL PROCESS...
WHAT THEY DID TO ME...



...I'LL
NEVER
KNOW.

THEY ALTERED MY
DNA SOMEHOW.
EVOLVED ME INTO...
SOMETHING.

I ALWAYS SUSPECTED
IT WAS MAYBE LIKE
HOW THE KREE MADE THE
INHUMANS OR SUMTHIN'...

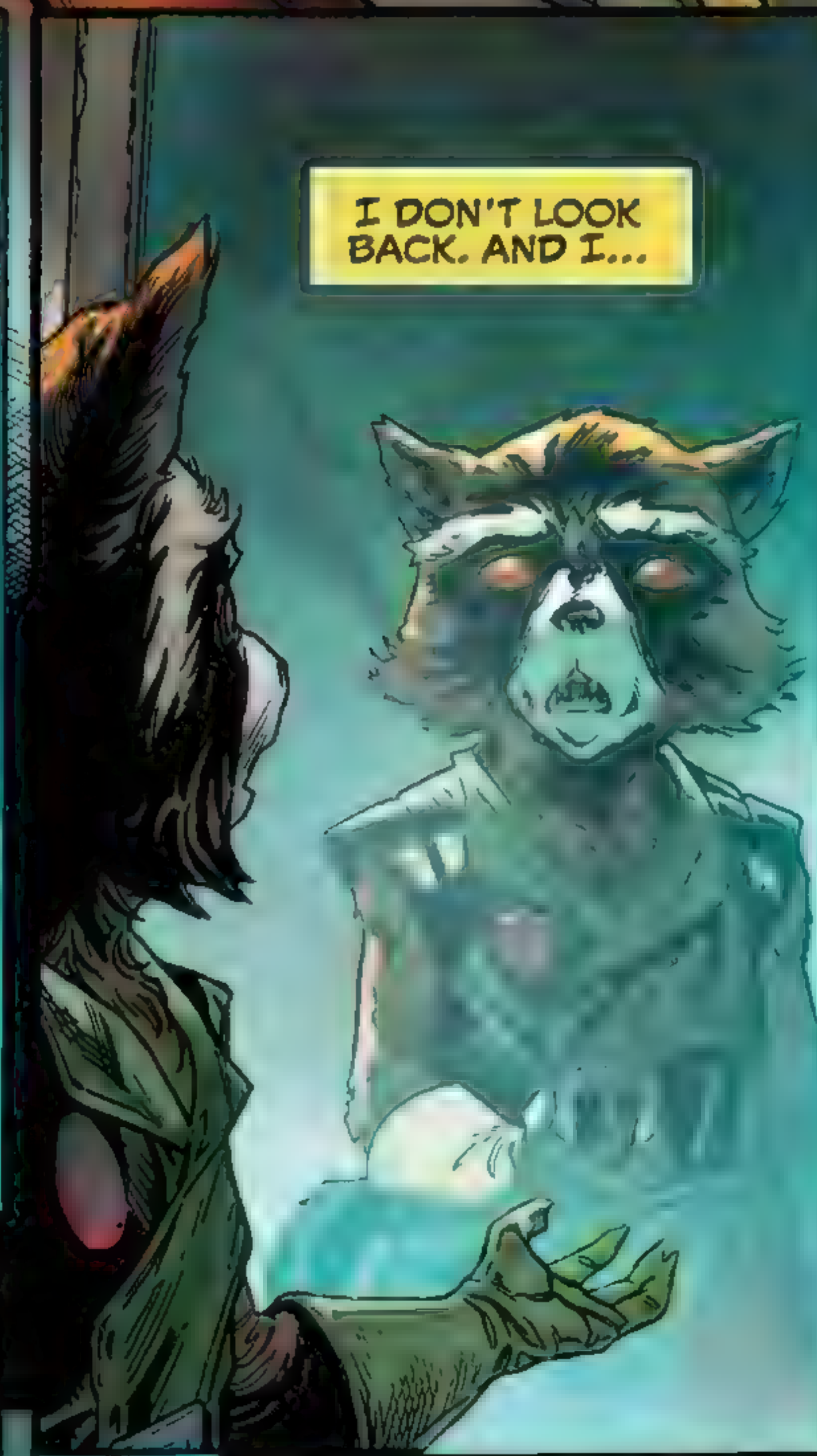


BUT THE
TRUTH IS...

THE TRUTH IS
IT DON'T REALLY
MATTER.



I DON'T LOOK
BACK. AND I...



...I DON'T
MISS BEING
SOFT.





THAT AIN'T
TO SAY IT
WAS ALL BAD.

THIS THING THEY
TURNED ME INTO,
IT...HAD ITS PERKS.

I AIN'T THE
SENTIMENTAL
TYPE, REALLY.

BUT I
HAD SOME
GOOD TIMES.

I WAS A
SHERIFF.

A RANGER.

FOUND SOME
FRIENDS ALONG
THE WAY.

FOUGHT
IN A FEW
COSMIC WARS.

KILLED A BUNCH OF
BAD @#\$%& WITH
SOME AGGRESSIVELY
LARGE WEAPONRY.

I WAS A
GUARDIAN OF
THE GALAXY.

I...I HAD
A FAMILY.

PEOPLE WHO
WERE GOOD
TO ME...

AND
THEN...



WE HAD JUST
GOTTEN THROUGH
THE INFINITY WARS.

THERE WEREN'T
THAT MANY OF
US, THEN...

I GOTTA
HAND IT TO YOU,
ROCKET. THIS MIGHT
BE THE WORST SHIP
YOU'VE EVER STOLEN
FOR US.



THAT'S WHEN
IT STARTED.

ROCKET?



ROCKET?
YOU ALL
RIGHT?



YEAH,
YEAH,
QUILL.

I JUST...
GOT A
HEADACHE OR
SOMETHIN'.

MAYBE YOU'RE
ALLERGIC TO THOSE
THREE BOTTLES YOU
DRANK LAST
NIGHT.



YEAH...

...PROBABLY
JUST THAT.

WHATEVER IT IS
THEY DONE TO ME TO
MAKE ME INTO ME...

NGGH...

IT WAS COMING
UNDONE.

MY BODY WAS
SHUTTING DOWN.

REJECTING
WHATEVER
MODIFICATIONS
THEY DID.

I WASN'T
GONNA BE
TAKEN CARE OF.

WASN'T GONNA
BE SOFT AGAIN.

WASN'T GONNA BE
PUT IN SOME
PITIFUL HOSPITAL AND
FORGOTTEN LIKE
KHEVIX WAS.

SO...I...I FOUND
ONE OF THE ESCAPE
PODS IN THE
OLD SHIP, AND I--



AND HE LEFT US.
WITHOUT SAYING A WORD.



ROCKET...
I'M SO SORRY...

DON'T BE.
IT AIN'T YOURS
TO BE SORRY
ABOUT.



NOW, IF WE
CAN MOVE ON.
WHERE'S PETER
AND THE GANG?
WE GOT A
PLAN OR--



WE
AREN'T
DONE.



DON'T
START WITH
ME, TREE.

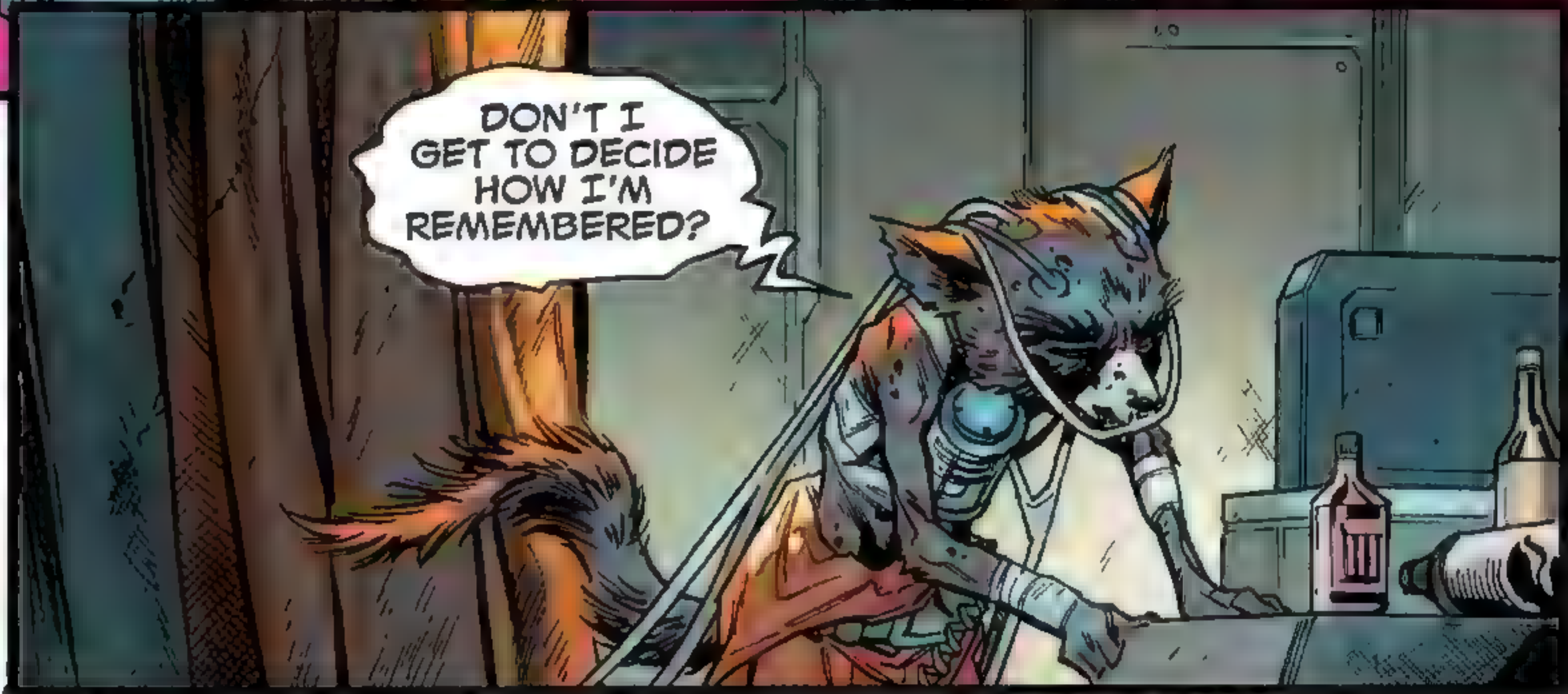




I WAS HIDING
BECAUSE I DIDN'T
WANT YOU TO SEE
ME LIKE THIS!



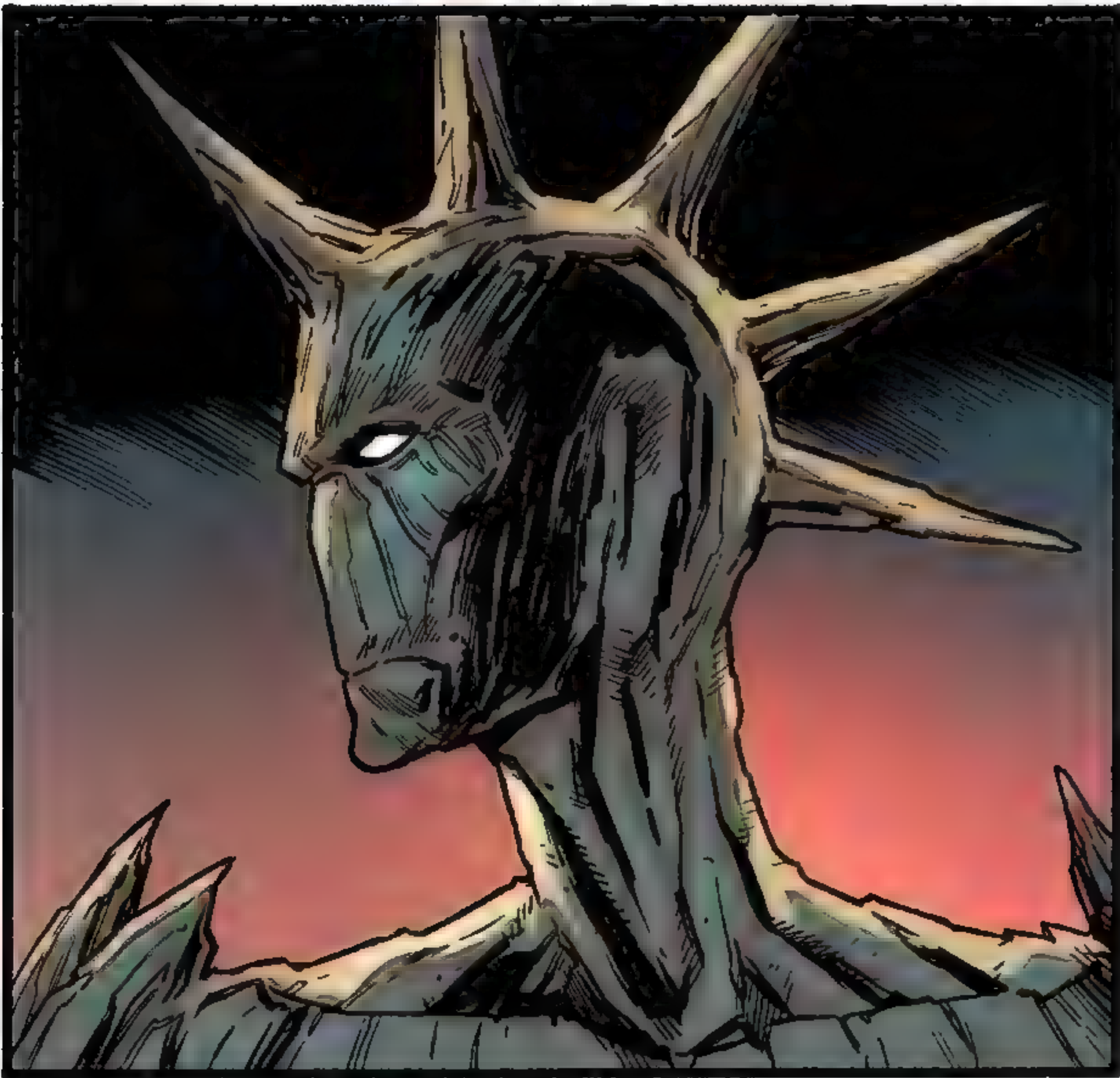
AFTER ALL
I DONE FOR
THIS @#\$%&
GALAXY, DON'T
I GET THAT
AT LEAST?



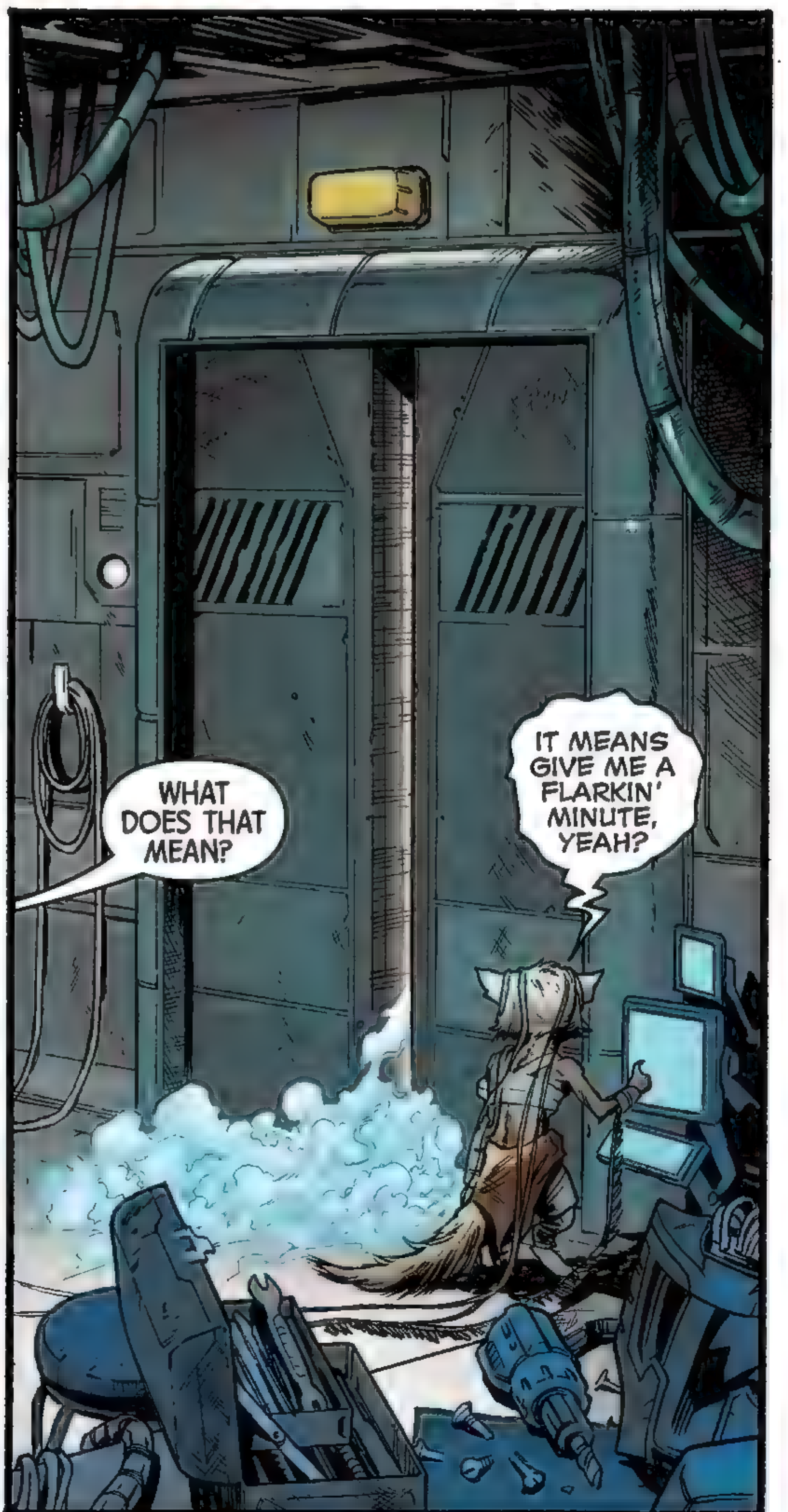
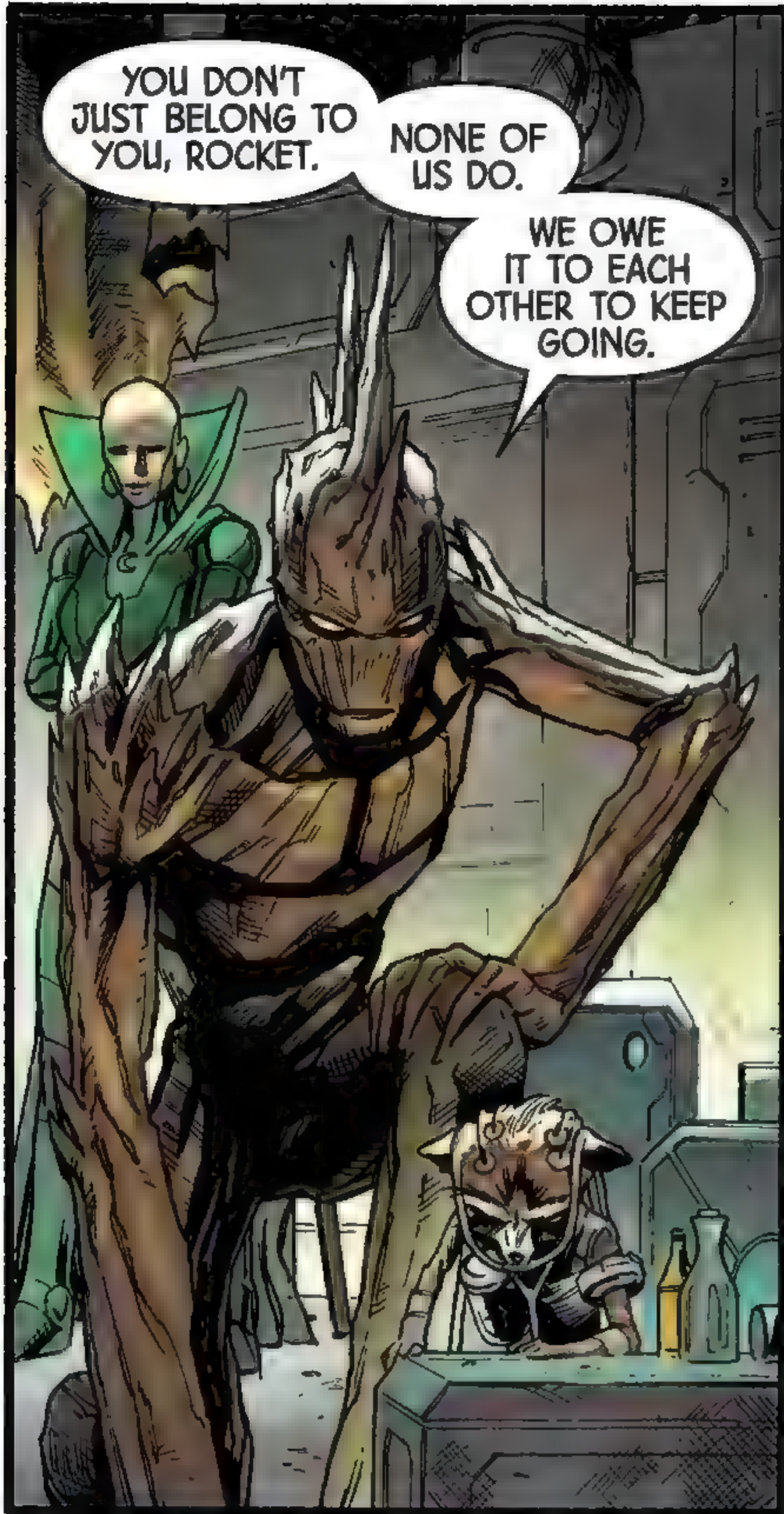
DON'T I
GET TO DECIDE
HOW I'M
REMEMBERED?

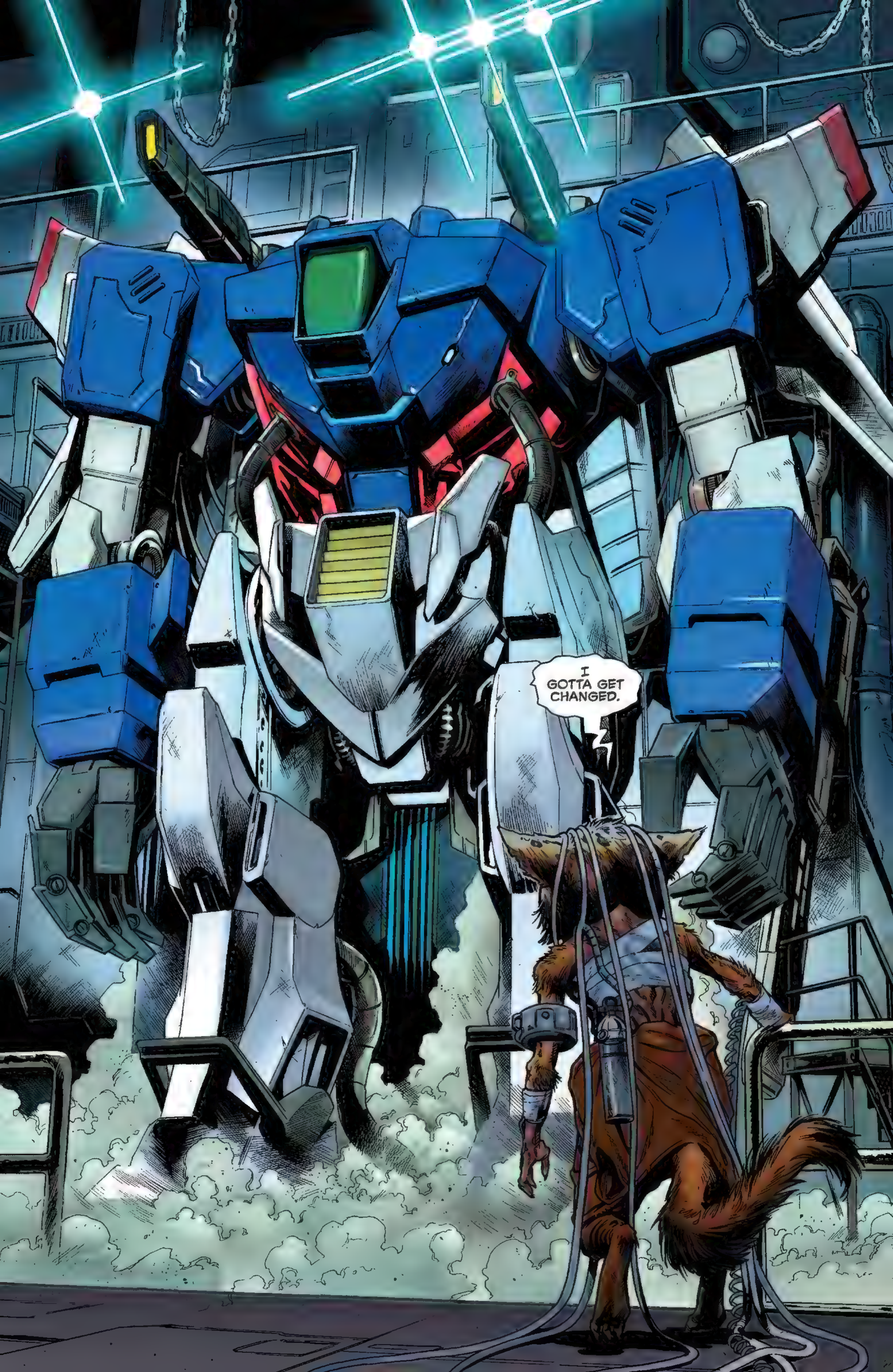


DON'T I
GET TO OWN
THIS PART?



NO.





I
GOTTA GET
CHANGED.



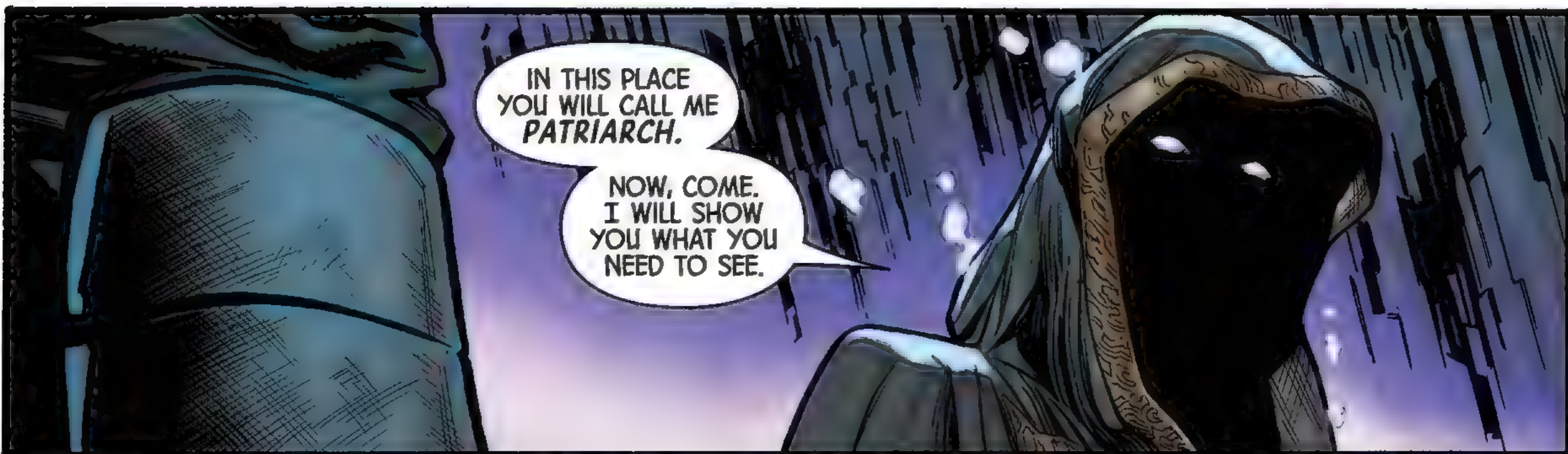
MEANWHILE...
CATHEDRAL.
FLAGSHIP TEMPLE-DESTROYER
OF THE UNIVERSAL CHURCH OF TRUTH.



DAD...

WHAT HAVE
YOU DONE?
WHAT IS
GOING--

PLEASE,
PETER.



IN THIS PLACE
YOU WILL CALL ME
PATRIARCH.

NOW, COME.
I WILL SHOW
YOU WHAT YOU
NEED TO SEE.



MY GOD...

NOT QUITE.
COSMO,
STATUS REPORT.

LIFE DRIVES
AT 42 PERCENT
AND CLIMBING AFTER
LAST USE KILLINK
NOVA CORPS.



HORRID
BUSINESS.
BUT IT NEEDED
TO BE DONE.
HAVE FAITH.

DA.
HAVINK
FAITH.



BOZHE
MOI, IT IS
LOCKJAW!



<IT IS HONOR
TO MEET YOU
AGAIN, GREAT
HOUND GOD.>

<RISE AND
WELL MET, HONORED
SPACE KNIGHT. YOU
SHOW YOUR BELLY
TO NO ONE.>



SPACE
DOGS,
MAN...

ARF!
ROOF, ROOF!
WOOF!

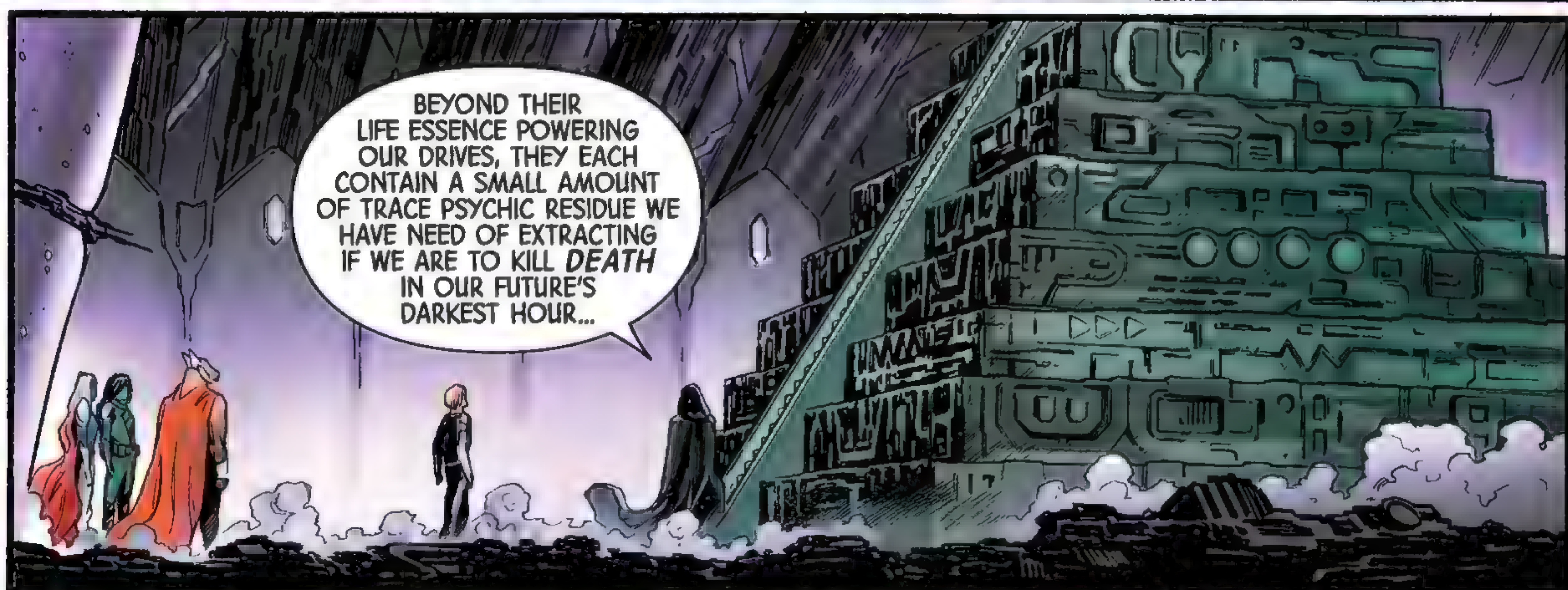
WOOF,
WOOF! RRRR
ARF!



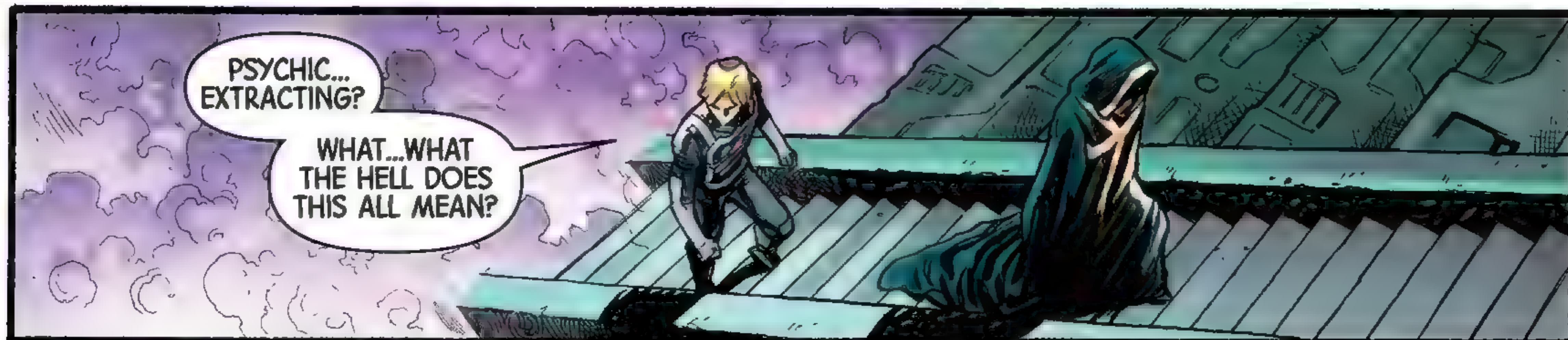
COME
ALONG,
PETER.

IS THAT
QUASAR? DARKHAWK?
WHAT...WHAT HAVE YOU
DONE TO THEM, DAD?
ARE THEY--

THEY
YET LIVE,
SON.



BEYOND THEIR
LIFE ESSENCE POWERING
OUR DRIVES, THEY EACH
CONTAIN A SMALL AMOUNT
OF TRACE PSYCHIC RESIDUE WE
HAVE NEED OF EXTRACTING
IF WE ARE TO KILL DEATH
IN OUR FUTURE'S
DARKEST HOUR...



PSYCHIC...
EXTRACTING?

WHAT...WHAT
THE HELL DOES
THIS ALL MEAN?



LOOK,
MY SON.

LOOK
AND HAVE
FAITH.

AW,
MAN...



DO YOU
SEE?

HE WILL
BE RISEN
AGAIN.

AND
ONCE HE IS
BORN...

...WE WILL USE
THE LIFE FORCES
WE HAVE TAKEN HERE
AND TAKE HIM TO
THE FUTURE.

WHERE
HE WILL KILL
DEATH ONCE
AND FOR
ALL.



DAD...
THAT...

THIS IS...
INSANE...

WHAT HAVE
THEY DONE
TO YOU?



THE CHURCH
HAS SHOWN ME
THE ONLY PATH
AVAILABLE.

THE ONLY
PATH OF LIGHT
IN THE DARK.



THEY'VE
BRAINWASHED
YOU!!!

THIS IS WHAT
THEY DO! THE CHURCH
ALWAYS GETS ONE OF THESE
COCOONS, THEY RESURRECT
ADAM WARLOCK FOR SOME
MYSTERIOUS @#\$% AND
THEN THEY GET
BEAT!

IT'S
ALWAYS THE
SAME!



NOT THIS
TIME.

THEY HAVE
LEARNED.

YOU
MUST HAVE
FAITH.



IN
WHAT?!

WHAT'S
SO DIFFERENT
THIS TIME?



THIS
TIME IT ISN'T
ADAM...



...AND IT'S
NOT JUST
ONE.

NINE



EARTH.
MILLIONS OF YEARS IN THE FUTURE.
THE END OF EVERYTHING.

"THE UNIVERSE
WAS BURNING."





"BY THE TIME
WE ARRIVED,
NOTHING
WAS LEFT..."



"NO HEROES.

"NO VILLAINS.



"NO LIFE.

"ONLY
ASHES.

"AND
GHOSTS.



"AS IF THE
WHOLE WORLD
HAD BEEN..."

"...TURNED
OFF.



"ELSEWHERE,
THE OCEANS
BOILED.

"DEVOID OF LIFE UNDER
A BLACK SUN, THE WAVES
CRASHED AGAINST
BEACHES MADE OF BONE.



"AND ABOVE IT,
THE STARS TURNED
FALLOW AND FELL.

"ROTTEN AND
CANCEROUS.

"REJECTED BY
THEIR CREATOR.



"AND THEN
WE SAW IT.



"HIGH ATOP A
THRONE OF
ANNIHILATION...

"...THERE WAS
DEATH."





NO...



THAT'S NOT...
POSSIBLE...



"BUT IT IS,
PETER."

"IT IS THE
TRUTH."



"AND WE
MUST STOP IT."

"DO YOU
KNOW HOW
WE DO THAT?"



...Y-YES...

"HOW DO WE STOP
THE END OF THE
WORLD, PETER?"

WE...



...WE
HAVE TO HAVE
FAITH.

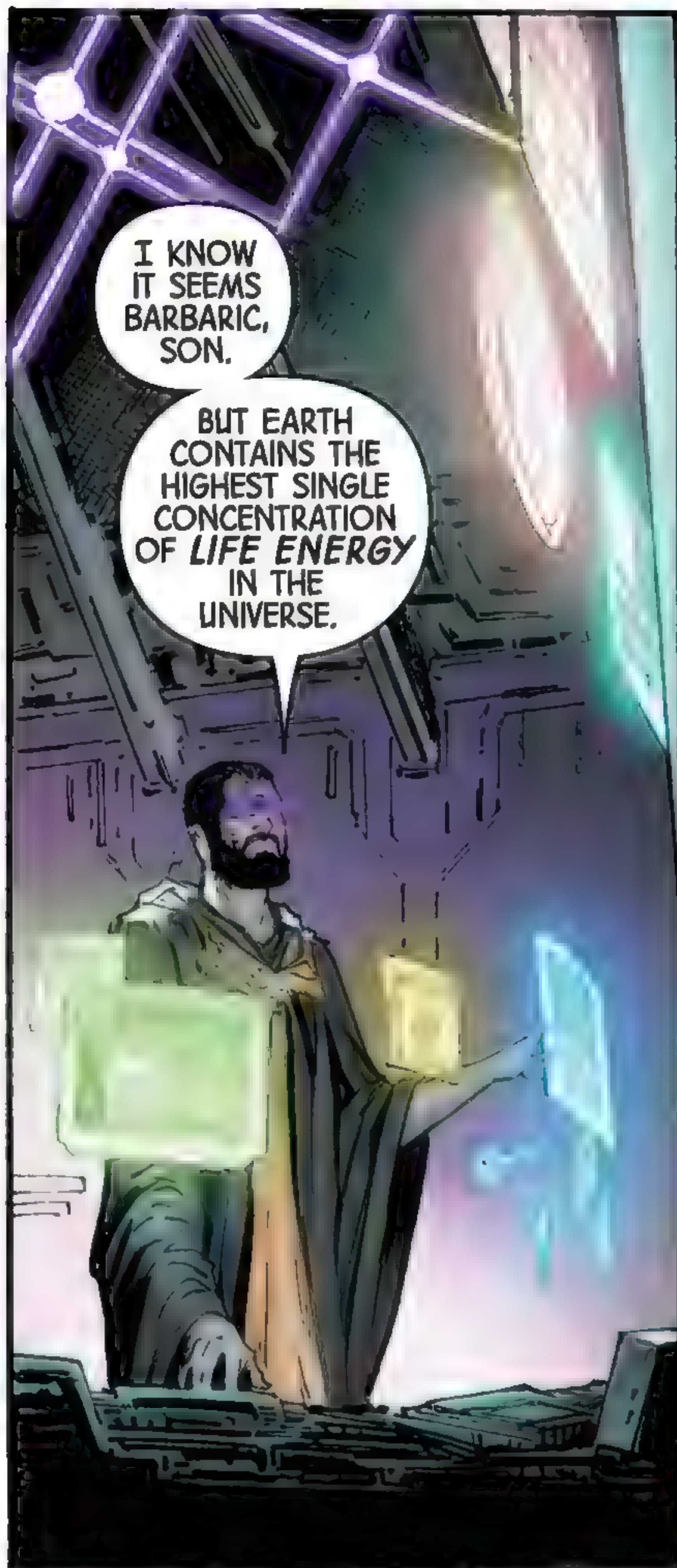


THAT'S
RIGHT, MY
SON.

THAT'S
RIGHT.







I KNOW
IT SEEMS
BARBARIC,
SON.

BUT EARTH
CONTAINS THE
HIGHEST SINGLE
CONCENTRATION
OF **LIFE ENERGY**
IN THE
UNIVERSE.



WE
NEEDN'T DRAIN
IT ALL...

PERHAPS JUST
A CONTINENT OR
TWO WOULD SUFFICE
TO CHARGE THE
TEMPLE-SHIP'S
BATTERIES.



AND THEN...
WITH OUR
MESSIAH REBORN,
WE RETURN TO
THE FUTURE...
AND WE KILL
DEATH.

I'M GLAD
TO HAVE YOU
HERE, SON.

I'M SO
ANXIOUS FOR
YOU TO SEE OUR
NEW FUTURE.



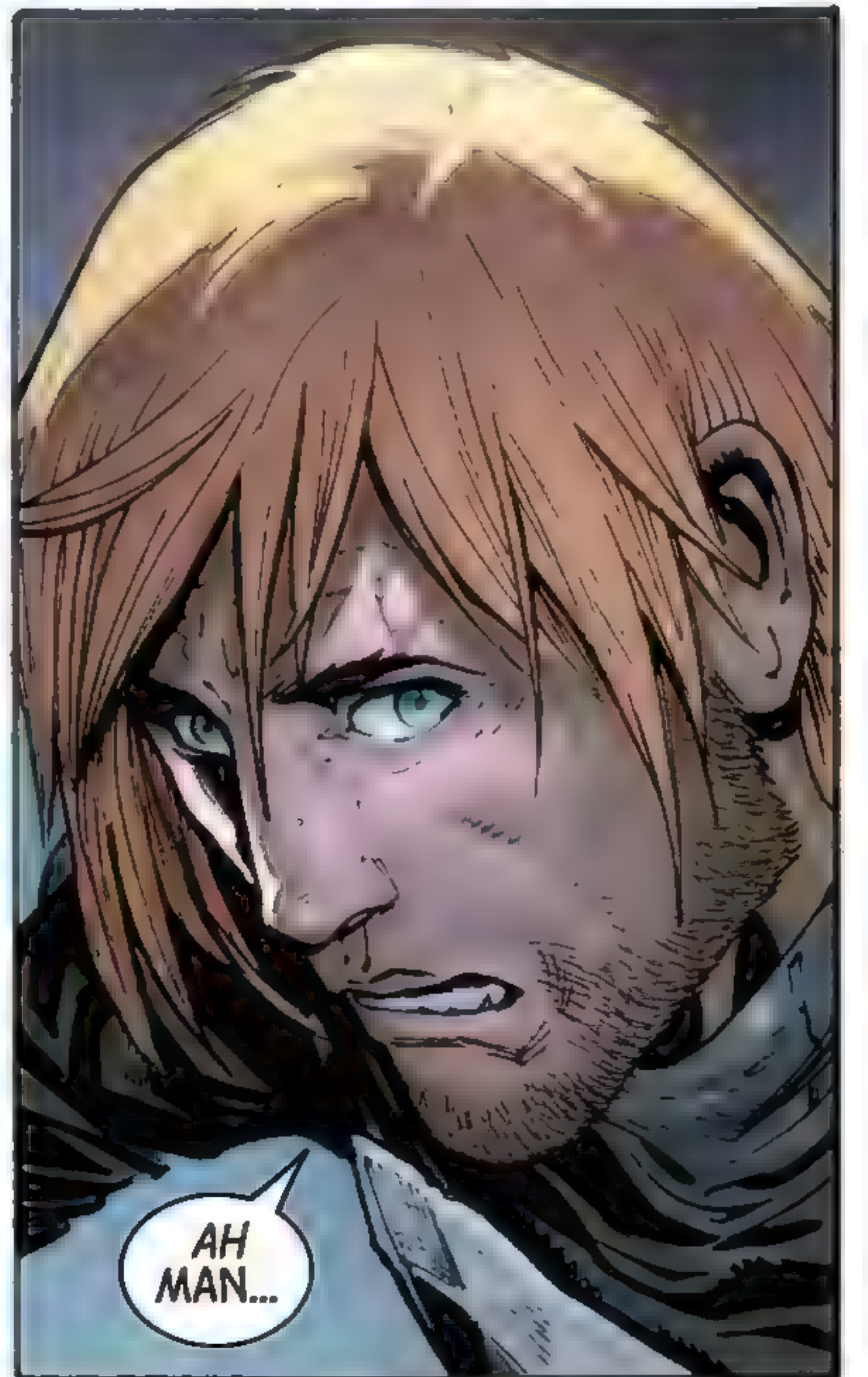
I AM
TOO, DAD.

I'M
JUST...SO
SORRY.



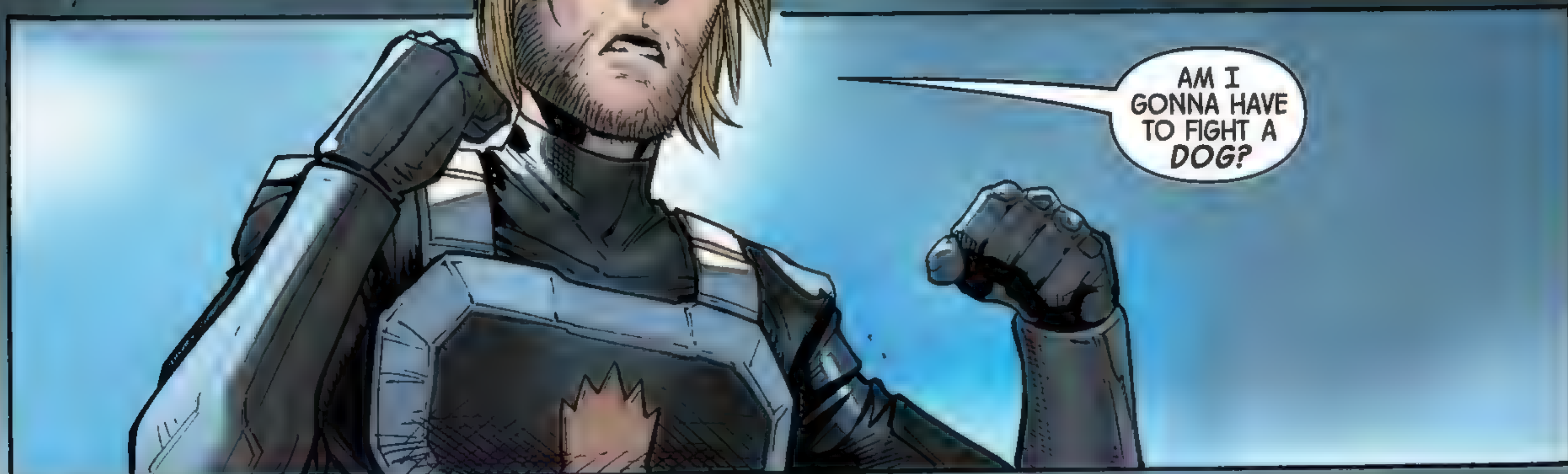
SORRY?
FOR WHAT,
MY SO--



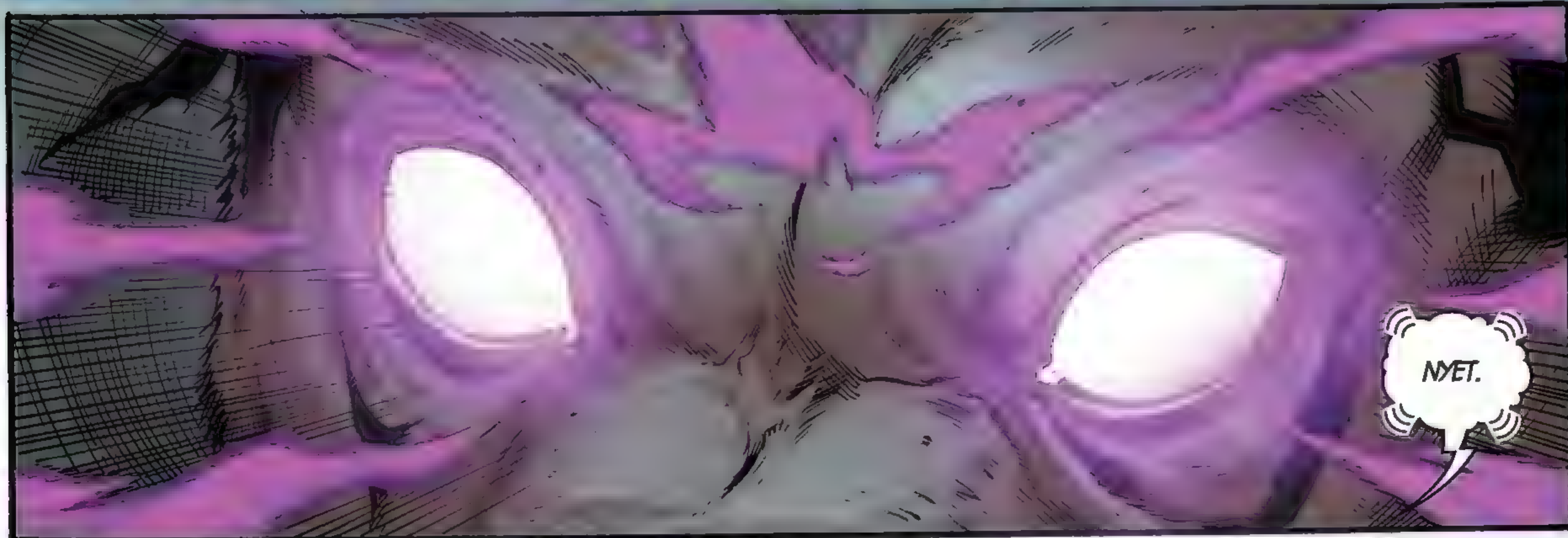




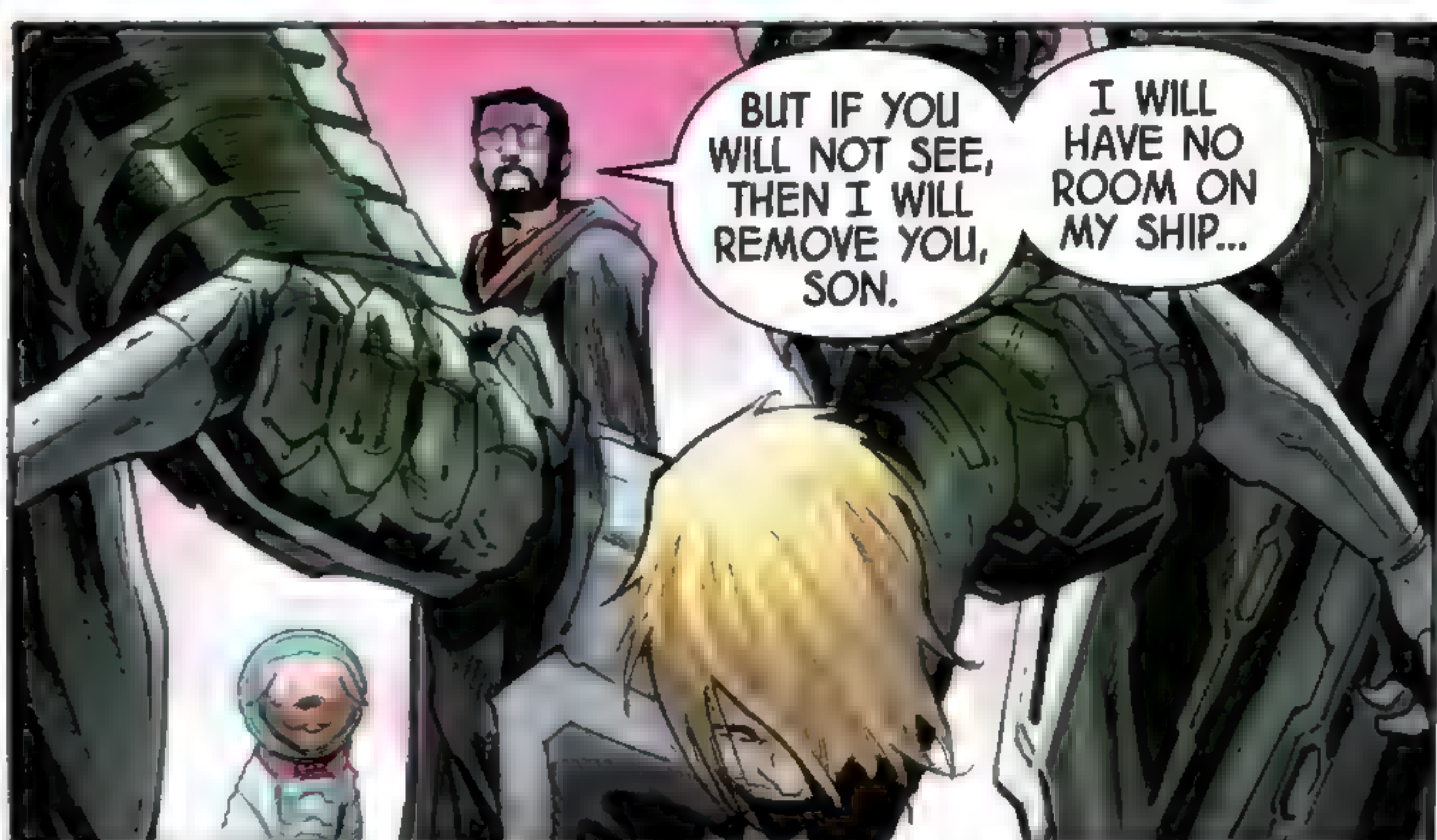
GRRRRR.



AM I
GONNA HAVE
TO FIGHT A
DOG?



NYET.



"...FOR THE FAITHLESS."

PLANET DESIGNATION: [REDACTED]
SECTOR: [CLASSIFIED]
NOW.

GROOT DOESN'T UNDERSTAND WHY WE ARE HERE!

YEAH, ROCKET. THIS DOESN'T EXACTLY FEEL LIKE THE "CAVALRY" YOU PROMISED US!

JUST SHUT UP AND KILL, WILL YA, MOONDRAGON?!





I STILL DON'T
EVEN KNOW HOW
YOU KNOW ABOUT
THIS PLACE!

GAMORA
TOLD ME ALL
ABOUT IT ONE NIGHT
WHEN WE WERE
HAMMERED!

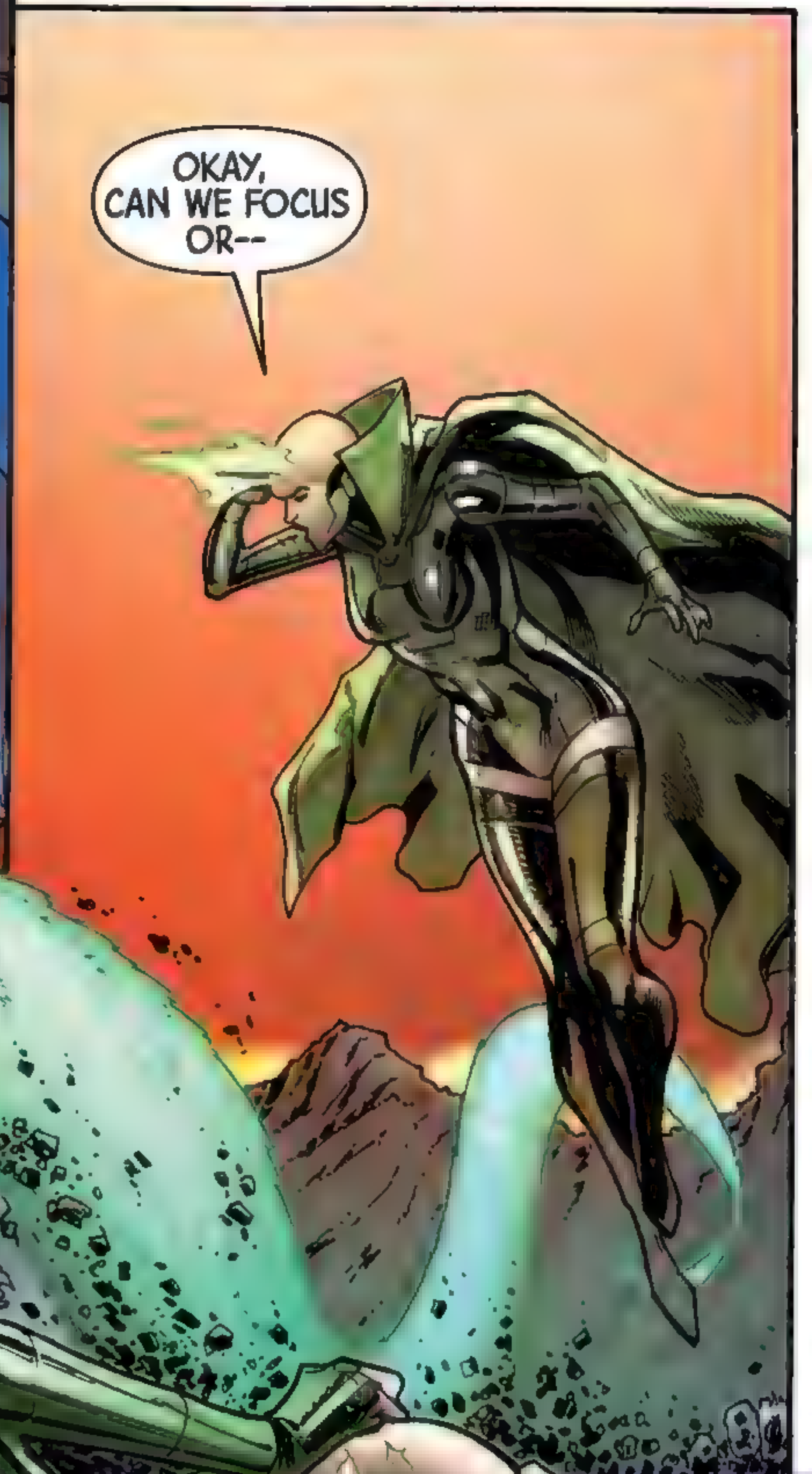


YOU GOT
DRUNK WITH
GAMORA WHEN
YOU WERE
AVOIDING
US AND
DYING?!

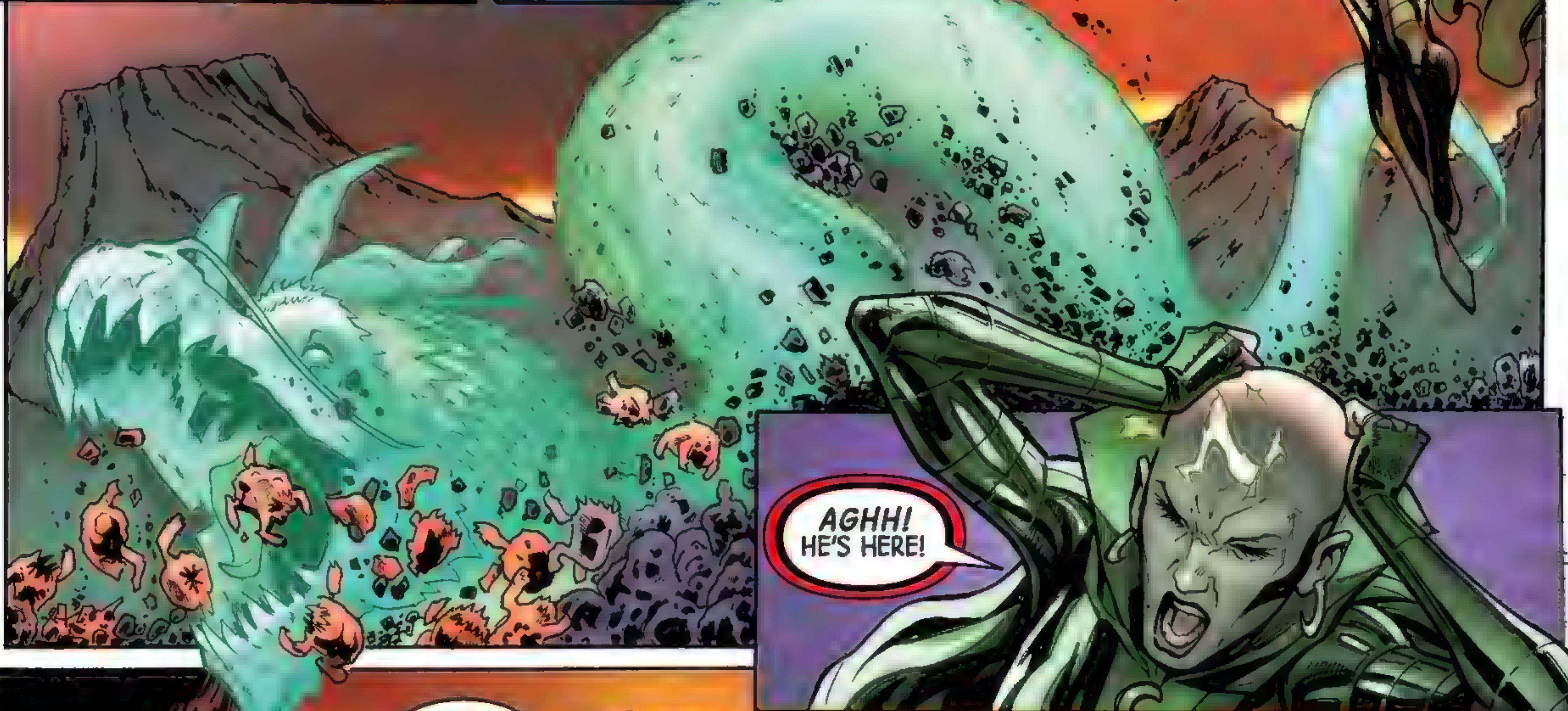


HEY, HOT, DEADLY GREEN
CHICK KNOCKS ON YOUR
DOOR ASKING FOR A
DRINK, WHAT'S A GUY
TO DO?

I'M DYING,
BUT I AIN'T
DEAD.



OKAY,
CAN WE FOCUS
OR--



AGHH!
HE'S HERE!



ROCKET?!

HEY! WE'RE
FLOATING! WHY
ARE WE--

PLEASE
STOP
FIGHTING.

I MEAN
YOU NO
HARM...



...BUT
YOU'RE SCARING
MY PETS.



MAGUS...

BUDDY...



WE
NEED YOUR
HELP.

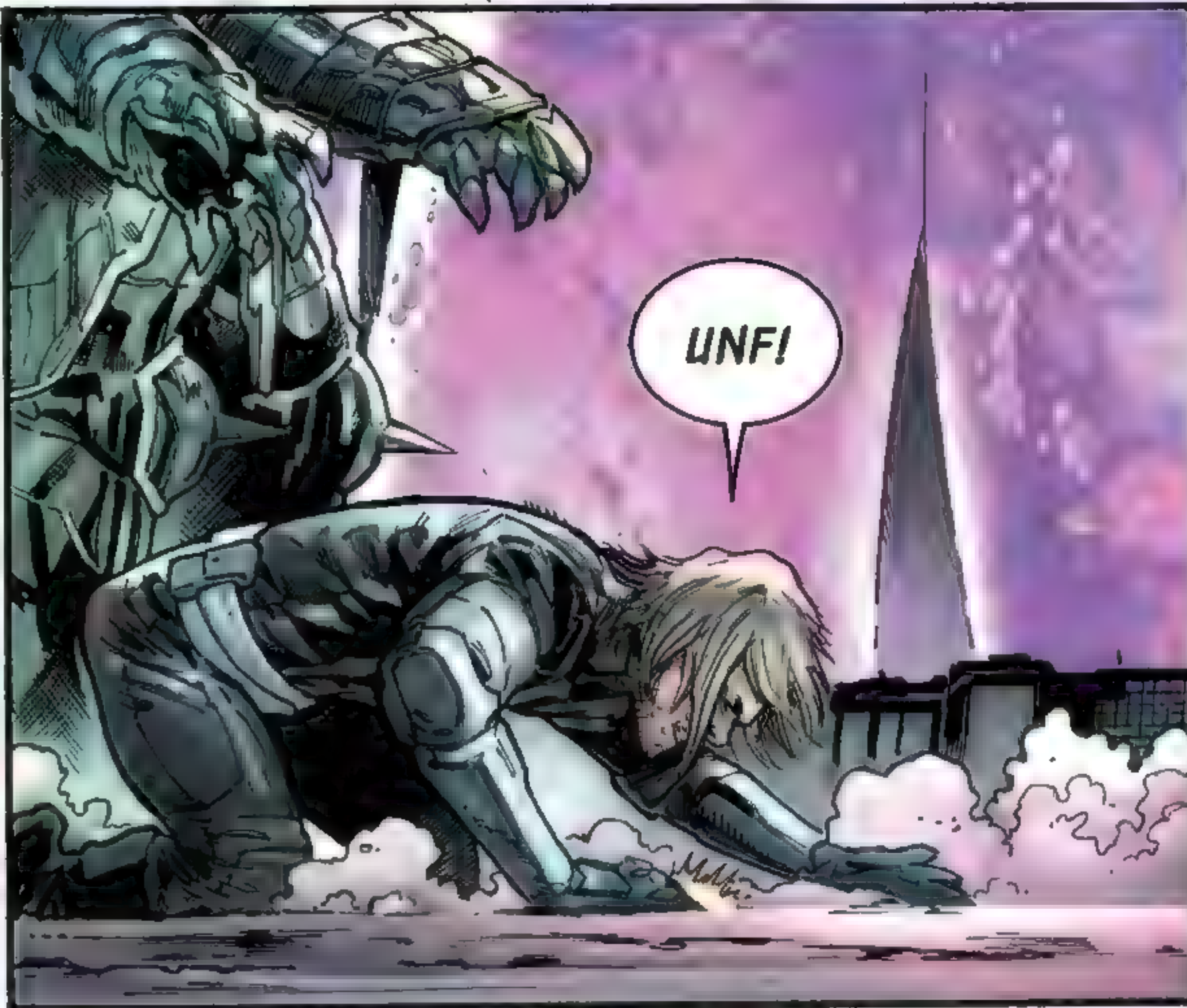


CATHEDRAL.
FLAGSHIP TEMPLE-DESTROYER.
EDGING CLOSER BY THE SECOND
TO YOU AND THOSE YOU LOVE.



YOU'RE NOT
GOING TO DO
THIS, DAD!

YOU CAN'T
KILL ME! I
DON'T--



UNFI!



I DON'T CARE
WHAT THEY'VE DONE
TO YOU. I'M STILL YOUR
SON. YOU DON'T HAVE
IT IN YOU TO
KILL ME!

YOU'RE
RIGHT.



WHICH IS
WHY YOU'RE
GOING TO
DO IT.

TURN ON
THE ENGI--



KRAAACCKK

WHAT...
WHAT IS THAT
NOISE?



FINALLY...



IT IS TIME.

COME ALONG, MY SON...



DAD...THIS IS NOT GOING TO GO THE WAY YOU THINK IT IS...

OH, ON THE CONTRARY...



...IT'S GOING EXACTLY TO PLAN...

PETER... BEHOLD...

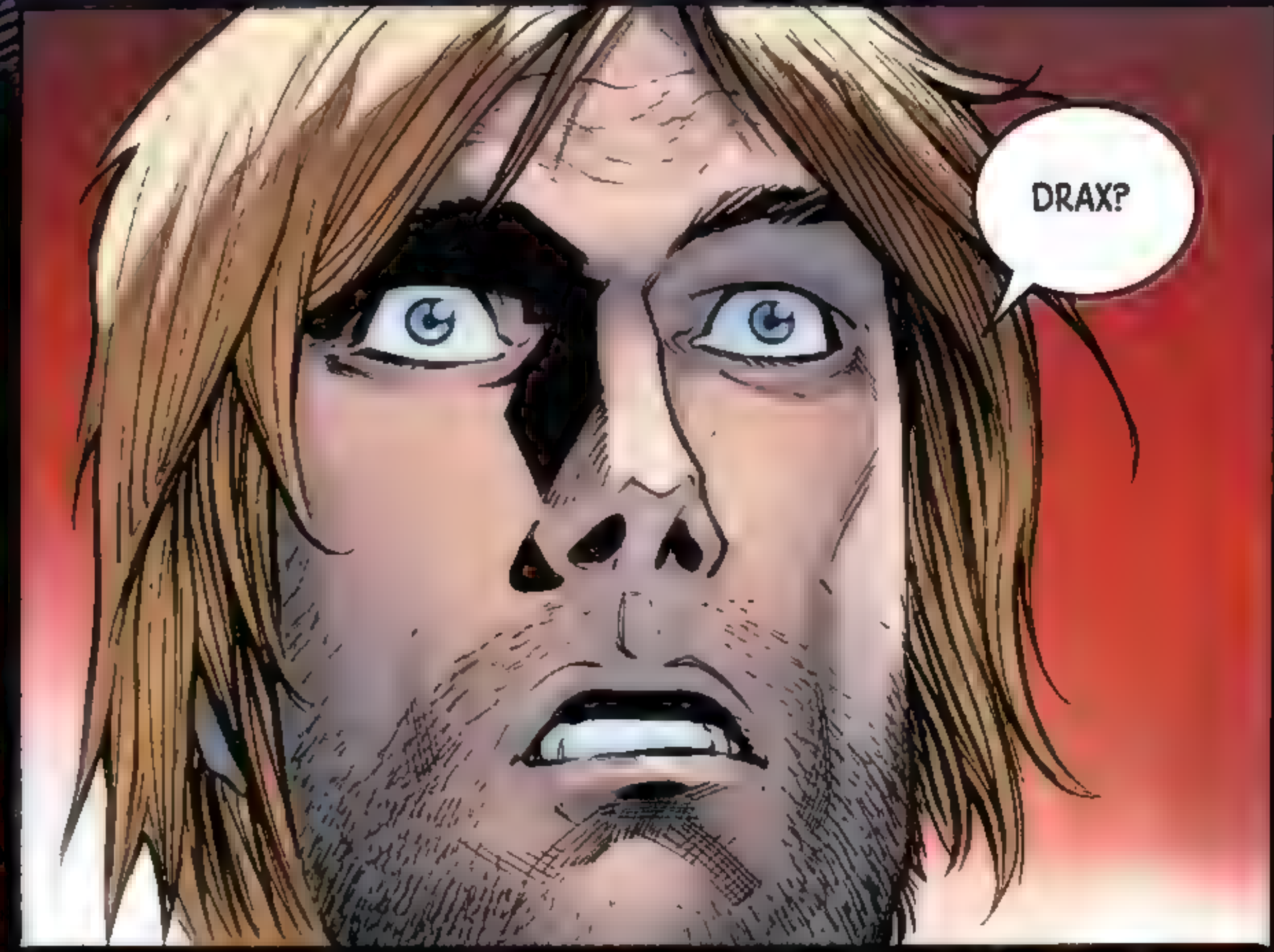


OUR MESSIAH...

OUR SAVIOR...



OUR
DESTROYER!



DRAX?



*WHEN I WAS REBORN AT THE FALL OF THE INFINITY WARS, I WAS ENTRUSTED TO GAMORA.

AFTER SEVERAL MONTHS, AND A NUMBER OF DISAGREEMENTS, IT WAS DECIDED THAT I WOULD BE BETTER OFF WITH PEOPLE THAT COULD BETTER NURTURE MY DARKER IMPULSES.

*MEANWHILE, GAMORA SET OFF TO PROTECT YOU, ROCKET, AS YOU LAY DYING IN YOUR HOVEL.

*SEE THANOS (2019) #6! --DS

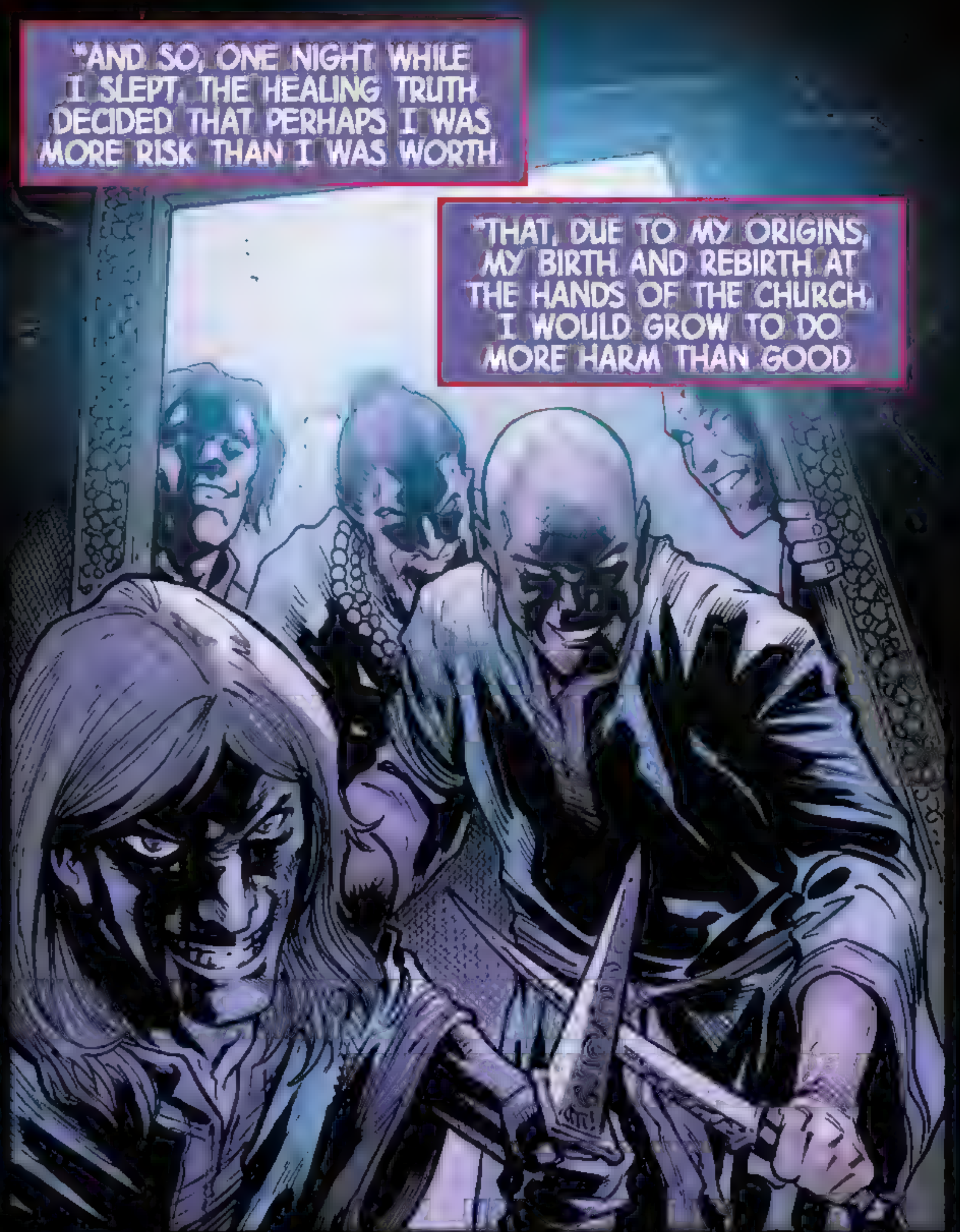
*MEANWHILE, I STUMBLED UPON THE GOOD PEOPLE OF THE ORDER OF THE HEALING TRUTH.

*MADE UP OF FORMER MEMBERS AND SURVIVORS OF THE UNIVERSAL CHURCH OF TRUTH.

*THE ORDER MADE IT THEIR LIFE'S MISSION TO ERADICATE THE HARM THEIR FORMER CULT HAD COMMITTED ACROSS THE GALAXY.



"AS IT WOULD HAPPEN, THEY SAW ME AS PART OF THAT HARM."



"AND SO, ONE NIGHT WHILE I SLEPT, THE HEALING TRUTH DECIDED THAT PERHAPS I WAS MORE RISK THAN I WAS WORTH."

"THAT, DUE TO MY ORIGINS, MY BIRTH AND REBIRTH AT THE HANDS OF THE CHURCH, I WOULD GROW TO DO MORE HARM THAN GOOD."



"I TRIED."

"I TRIED TO EXPLAIN TO THESE PEOPLE THAT I WAS NOT LIKE THE MAGUS BEFORE ME."

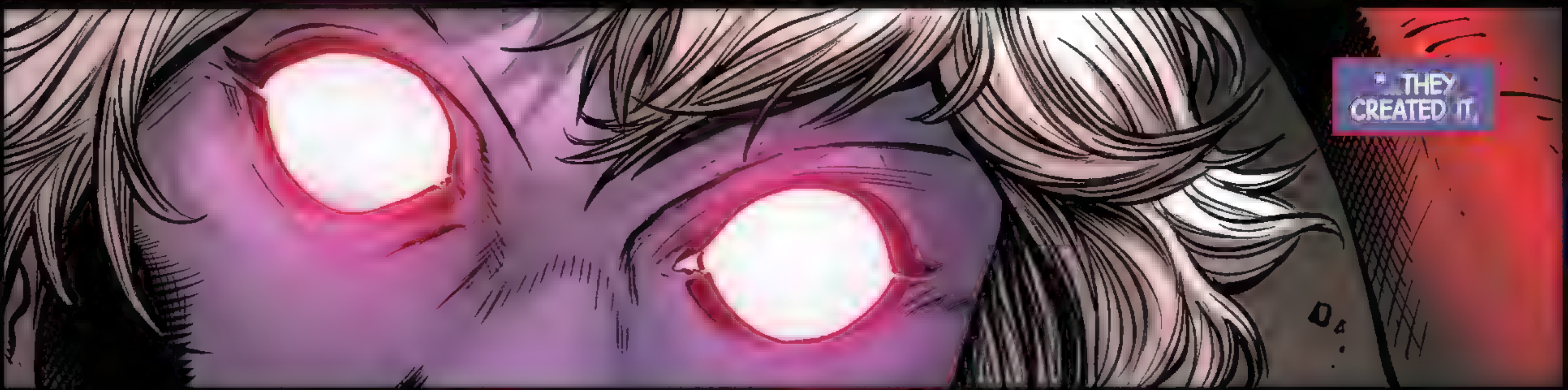
"THAT I DID NOT WANT TO HURT ANYONE."



"I BEGGED THEM TO SEE WHAT THEY WERE DOING..."

"BUT THEY WOULD NOT LISTEN."

"IN TRYING TO STOP ME FROM BECOMING THE MONSTER THEY HAD ALWAYS FEARED..."



"THEY CREATED IT."

AND THEN, ALONE,
IN THE FALLING ASHES
OF THE TEMPLE.



THE
MONSTERS
CAME.





AND WE'VE
BEEN HERE EVER
SINCE.



SO THAT'S
WHERE I'VE
BEEN.

WHAT'S BEEN
GOING ON WITH
YOU GUYS?



WELP...



...WE
SHOULD
TALK.





YES, YOU'RE WELCOME INSIDE MY MIND IF YOU WISH TO CONFIRM MY STORY, HEATHER.



NO...

NO, I'M GOOD.



RIGHT. ANYWAY, THE CHURCH. THEY'RE BACK.

I DON'T REALLY CARE, HONESTLY. THING IS, THEY'VE TAKEN OUR FRIENDS AND KILLED HUNDREDS OF PEOPLE.

I SEE.



LOOK. KNOWING YOUR HISTORY WITH THESE FREAKS, I KNOW THIS IS A BIG ASK...

BUT I FIGURED, IF ANYONE COULD FREAK THESE DUDES OUT ENOUGH TO GET US A FIGHTING CHANCE...

BUT I UNDERSTAND IF YOU DON'T WANT NOTHING TO DO WITH THIS KINDA--

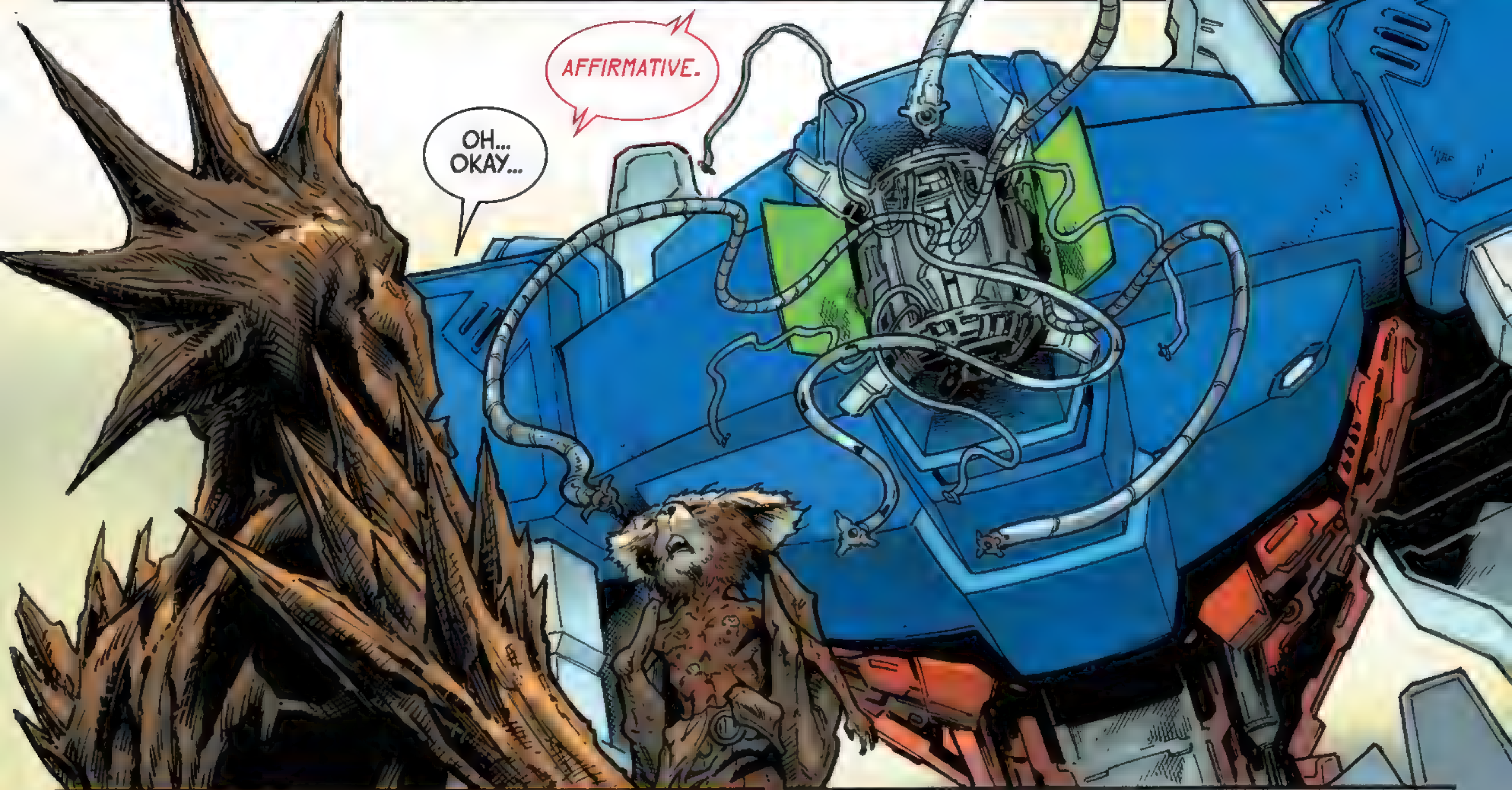
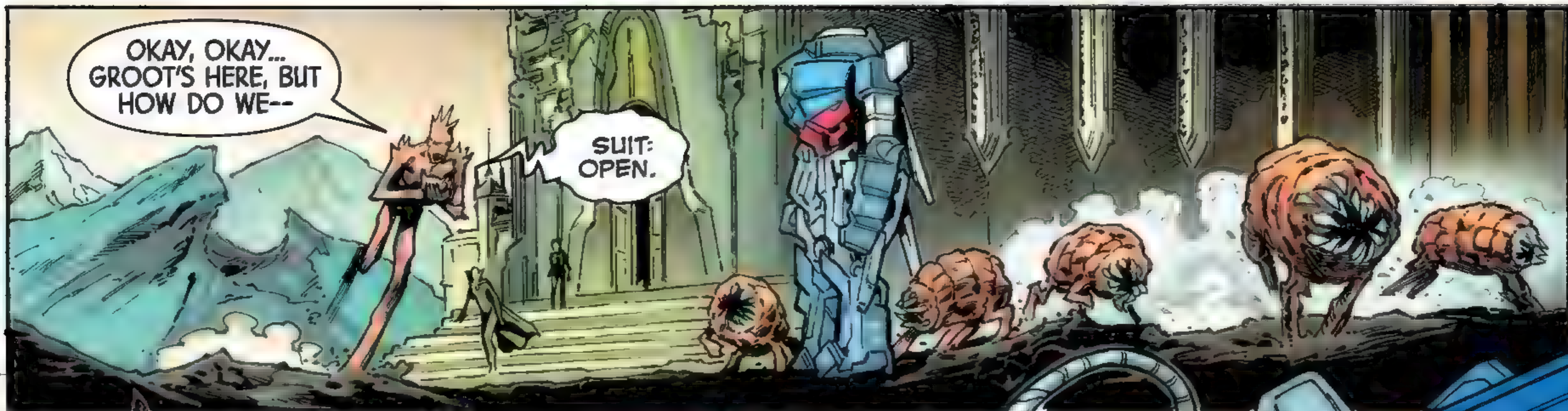
OH. NO.

I THINK I WOULD QUITE ENJOY SOMETHING LIKE THAT.

I'M VERY BORED HERE.









DAMMIT,
ROCKET!

ELIMINATING
THREAT.

WAIT,
WHAT?!

THREAT
DETECTED!



HEH.

LOOK AT
YOU. SHAKING
LIKE A...

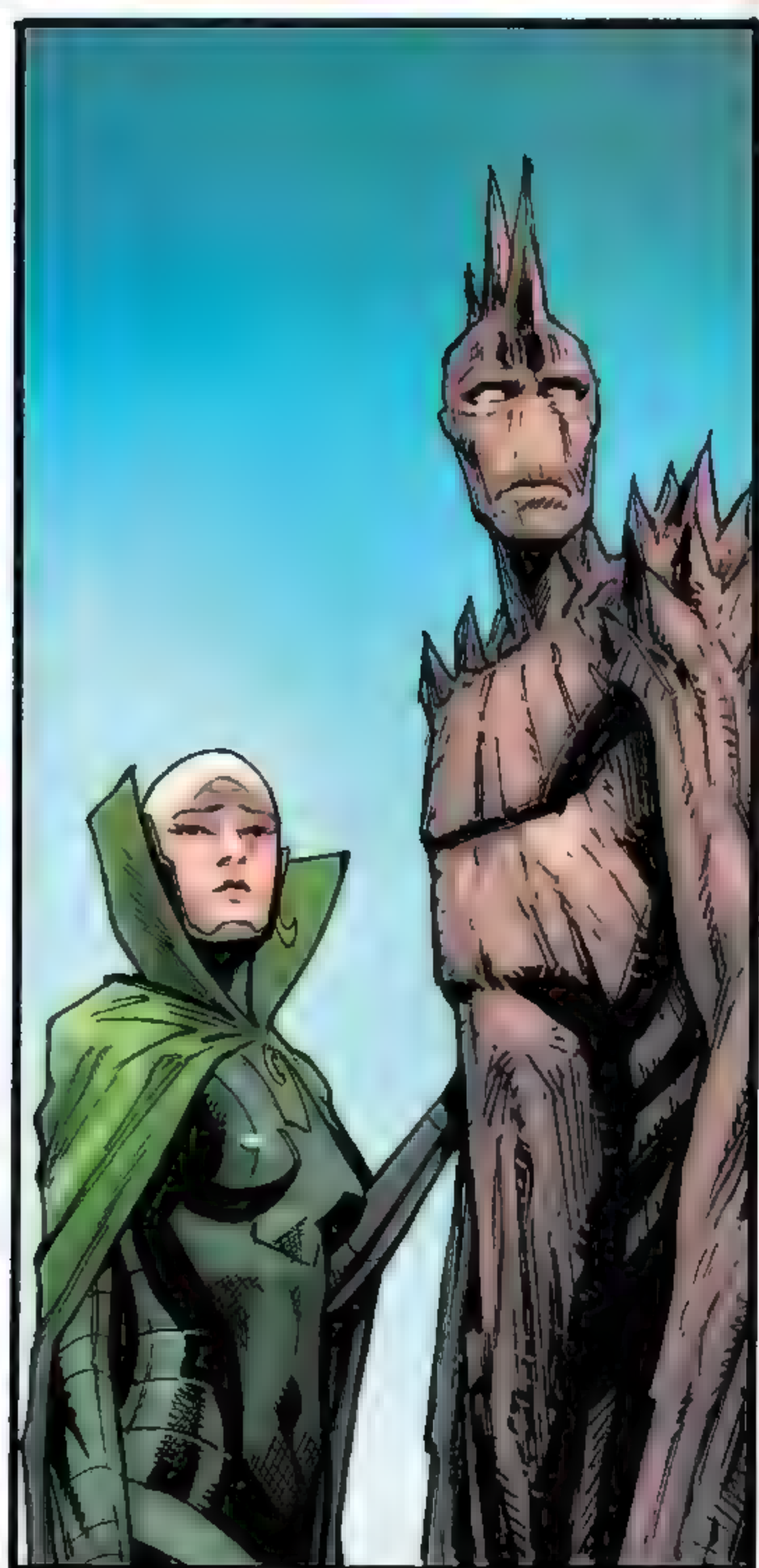
...WELL,
YOU GET
IT.



LET'S
ROLL.

ROCKET...
WAIT. ARE
YOU--

I'M
FINE, GROOT
NOW HURRY UP.
WE GOT A BUNCH
OF IDIOTS TO
SAVE FROM A
DUMB CULT.



CATHEDRAL.
FLAGSHIP TEMPLE-
DESTROYER.
NOW.

DRAX.

IS
THAT...

...IS THAT
YOU?

I WOULDN'T
GET TOO
CLOSE, SON.

THAT'S NOT
THE DRAX
YOU LOST.



I DON'T...I
DON'T BELIEVE
THAT.

DRAX...
IT'S ME. IT'S
PETER.



YOU
REMEMBER ME?
STAR-LORD?

THE
GUARDIANS?

COME ON,
MAN...GIVE ME
SOMETHING...



DRAX....?



YEAH,
MAN! THAT'S
YOU!

YOU USED
TO BE ARTHUR
DOUGLAS?

YOU...PLAYED
SAXOPHONE?

YOU HAVE A
DAUGHTER WHO
TURNS INTO A
DRAGON!

YOU KILLED
THANOS THIS
ONE TIME...



ARTHUR
DOUGLAS...

YOUR
FRIEND...

...IS
DEAD.

I AM
~~DIREX~~

THE
DESTROYER
REBORN!









DAD!
DAD, HELP
ME!

MY
CHILDREN...



HELP M--
UNFI!



DAD,
NO!

NO!!!



TEAR HIM
APART.



AGHHH!!!

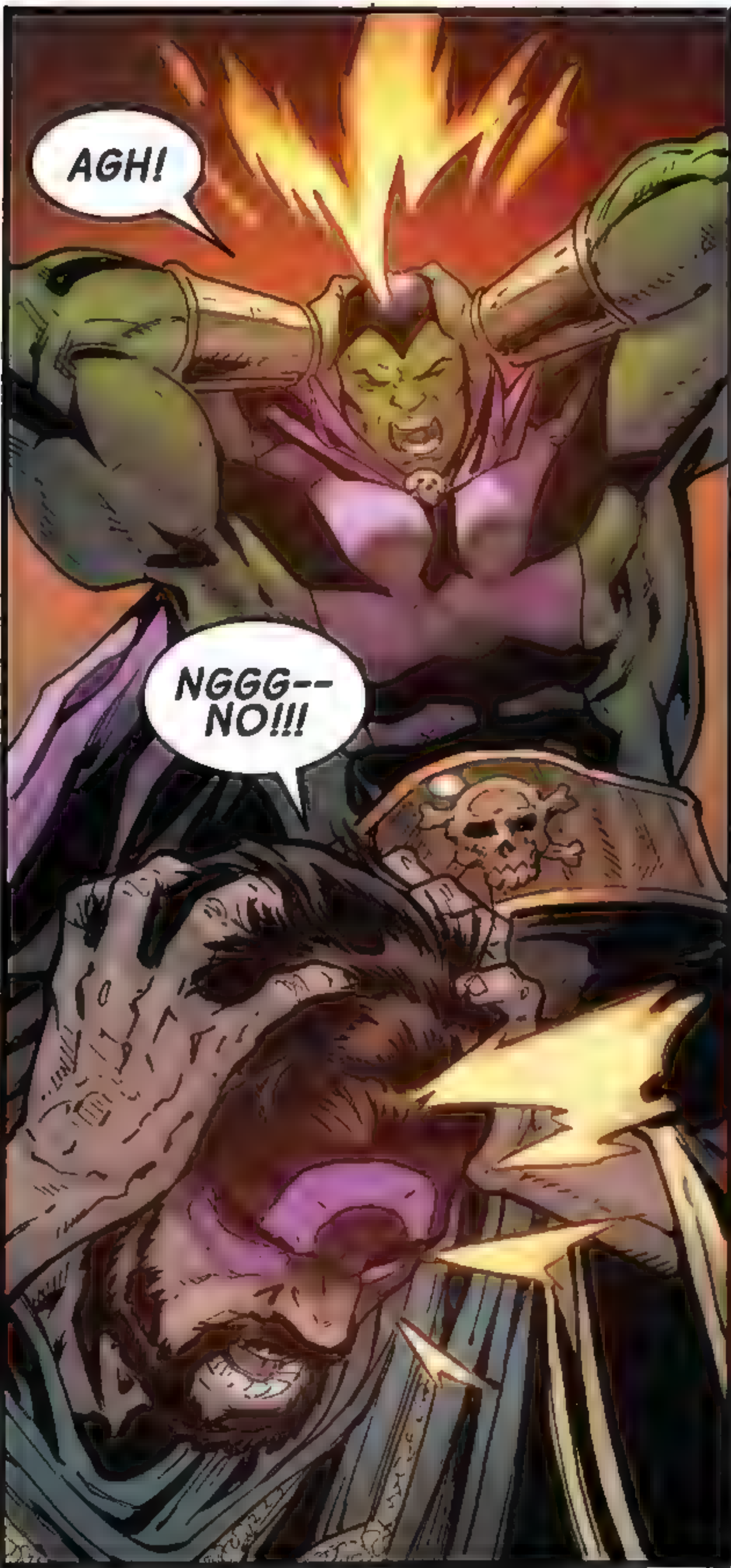


DRAGON.
MAGUS.

POUR
IT ON.

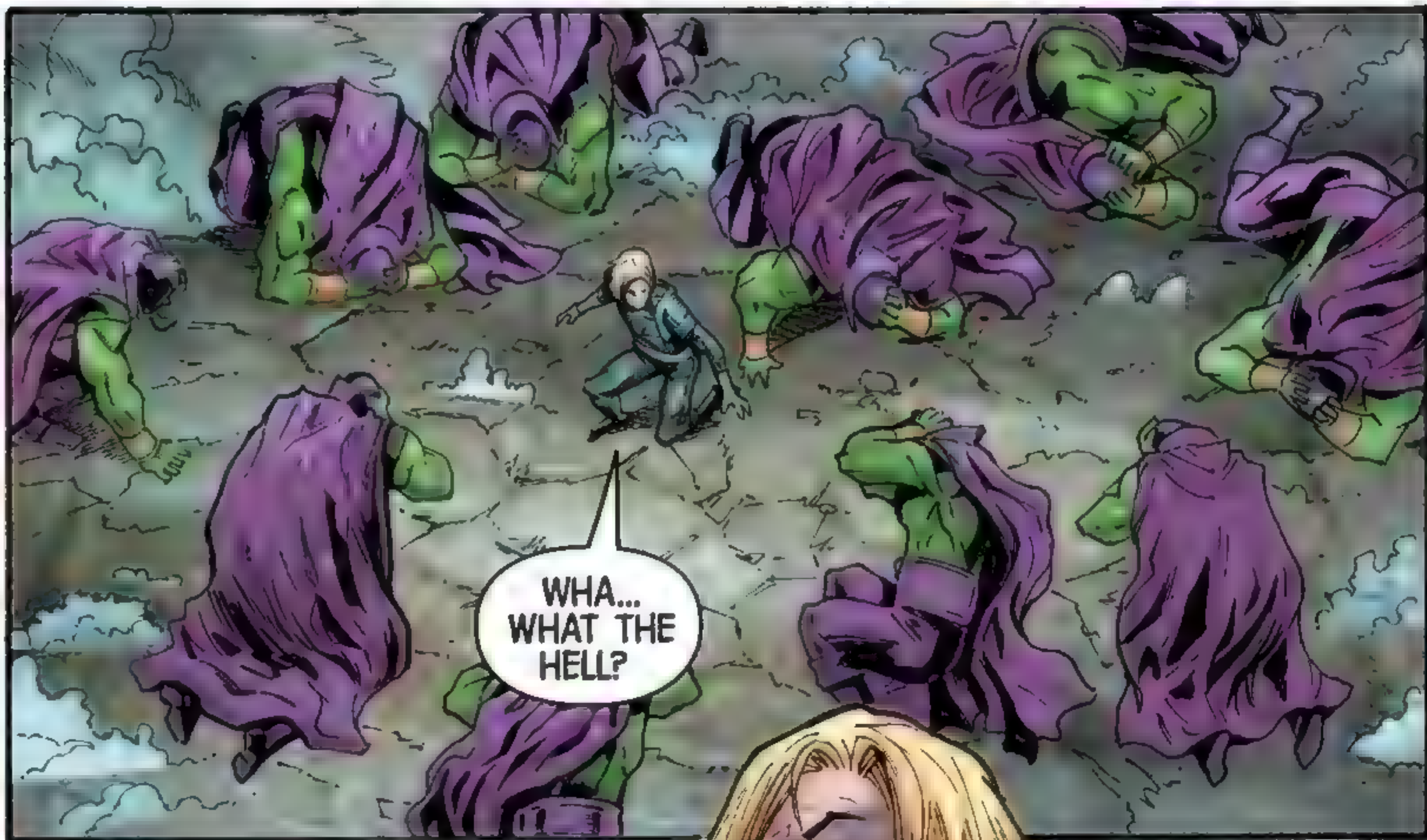


RAAAAGGHH!!!



AGH!

NGGG--
NO!!!



WHA...
WHAT THE
HELL?



DO...
I HAVE
POWERS?



GOOD EVENING, CREEPY CULT. IT'S YOUR IMMINENT DOOM SPEAKING.

NGGG, WHAT...IS... THIS?!



WE INTERRUPT YOUR DAILY SERMON TO BRING YOU A CHOICE.

RELEASE OUR FRIENDS AND GO HOME, OR PREPARE TO BE BOARDED AND HAVE YOUR FLARKIN' MINDS OOZE OUTTA YER NOSE.



THAT VOICE...

OH...HELL YEAH...



WHOEVER YOU ARE...YOU HAVE...JUST STARTED A WAR! YOU ARE DEAD!

KINDA HOPING YOU'D SAY THAT.

PREPARE TO BE BOARDED, @#%-HAT.



WHO ARE YOU?!

IDENTIFY YOURSELF!



THIS IS THE STARSHIP BOWIE.

OVER
AND OUT.





HA...HAHA...
YOU ARROGANT
FOOLS.

WHAT DID
YOU EXPECT TO
ACCOMPLISH WITH
THIS STUNT?!

WHAT DO
YOU EXPECT
ME TO DO?
JUST GIVE
UP?!

GIVE
UP? NO,
J'SON...

NOT
YET.

BUT
SOON...

...I BELIEVE
I'D SEE YOU
BOW.



GIUSEPPE CAMUNCOLI &
JEAN-FRANÇOIS BEAULIEU
#7 Carnage-ized variant



CHAS STEVENS & JASON KEITH
WITH MIKE MCHONE & EDGAR DELGADO
#8 80th Anniversary Frame variant



DECLAN SHALVEY
#9 Immortal variant





HAHA!!!
YOU HEARD
THE KID--GET
READY TO BURN,
YA BUNCH 'A
CREEPY...

CATHEDRAL.
FLAGSHIP TEMPLE-DESTROYER.



...DEATH...
CULT...



WAIT,
WHAT THE
@#\$%?
DRAX?
IS THAT--



AGHH!!!



THERE ARE...
TOO MANY OF THEM...
FOR ME TO CONTROL...
WE NEED TO...



MOONDRAGON?

WHAT
ARE YOU
DOING?

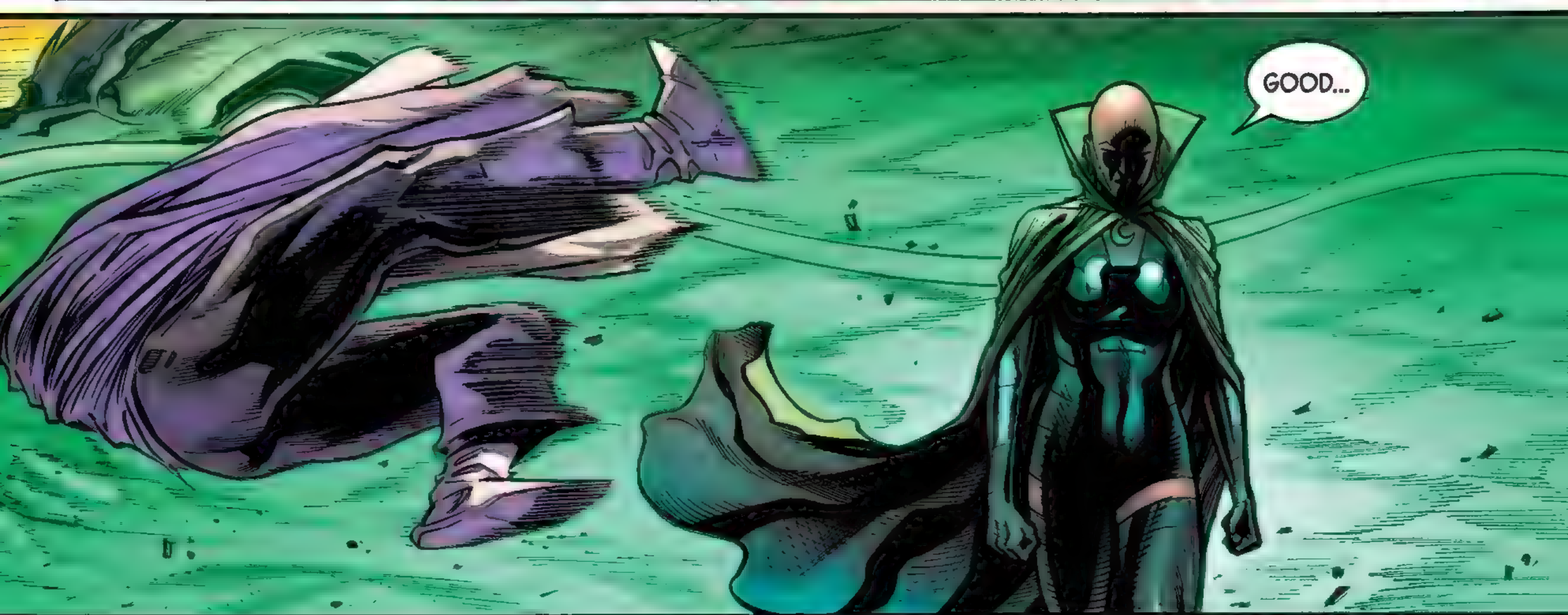
I...



...I HAVE
TO MAKE SURE,
MAGUS.



STOP.







OH
MY GOD,
YOU GUYS
CAME.

SO, LOOK,
DRAX IS BACK.
BUT HE'S EVIL. THE
UNIVERSAL CHURCH
OF TRUTH IS
DOING--

EVIL CULT
THINGS.

YEAH.
BUT THEY
HAVE THE REST
OF THE GUARDIANS.
WE HAVE TO GO
GET THEM.

HOW?



I DON'T KNOW.
I'M NOT GOOD AT
PLANNING STUFF
LATELY.

OH COOL,
DID ROCKET
BUILD A
MECH-SUIT?

DOES
THAT MEAN
HE'S--



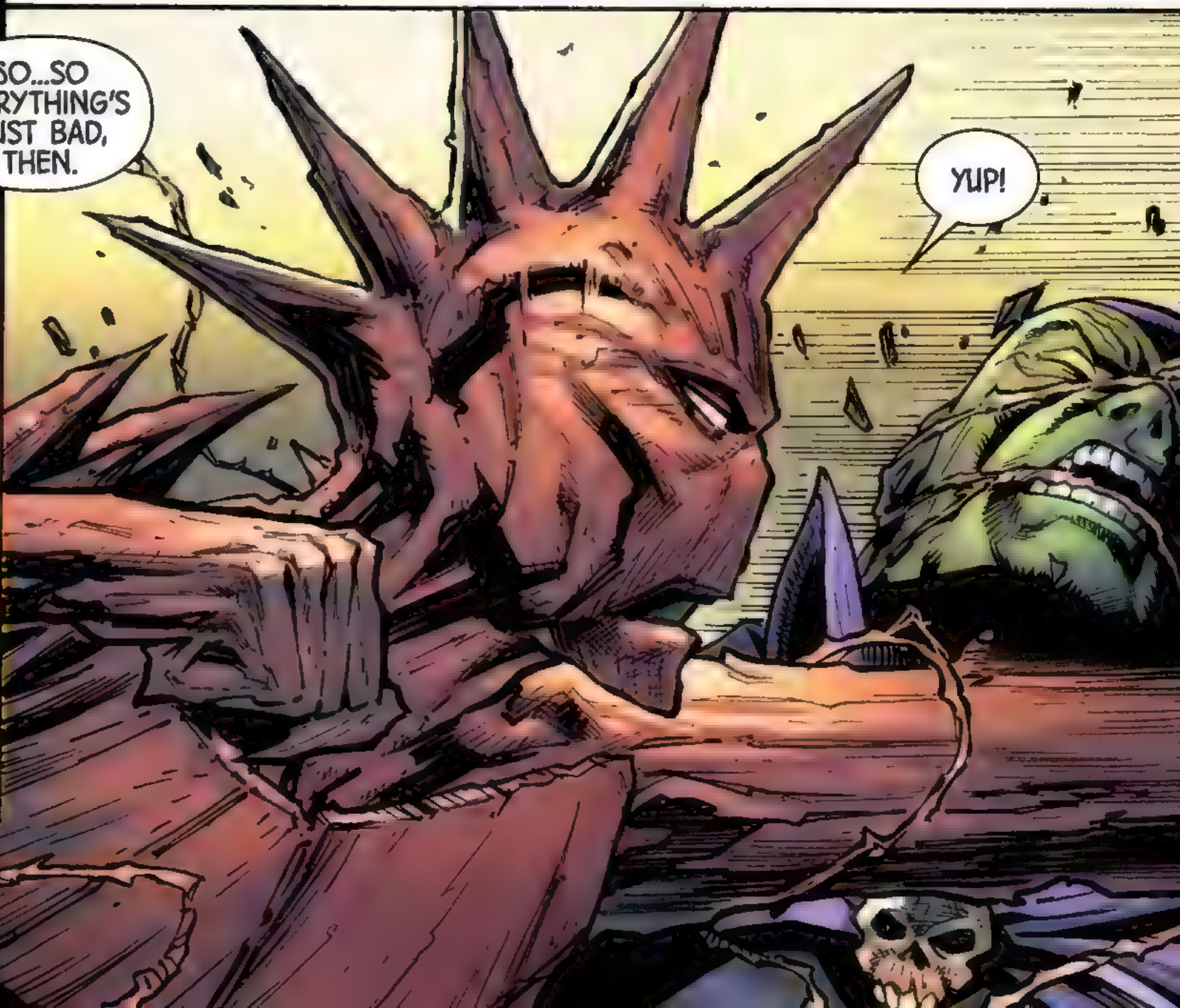
HE'S STILL DYING.
IF HE'S NOT IN THE
SUIT, HE DIES.

SO YEAH.
PRETTY COOL,
PETE.



OH.
OKAY.

SO...SO
EVERYTHING'S
JUST BAD,
THEN.



YUP!





NOW'S
YOUR
CHANCE!

GO GET
GAMORA AND
THE TEAM!



ROCKET...

IF I
DON'T MAKE
IT BACK...



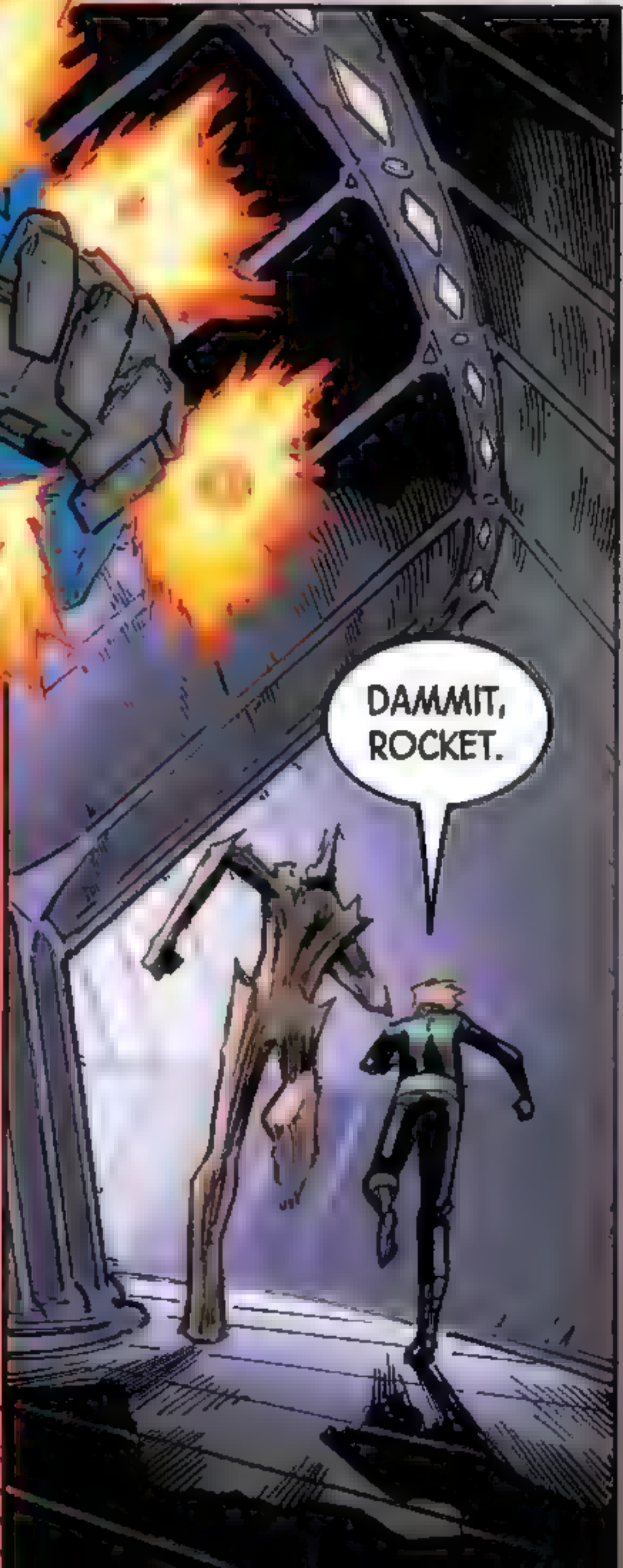
PETE.

I KNOW.

YOU WANT
ME TO HAVE
YOUR SHIP AND
ALL YOUR
STUFF.



NOW
GO!



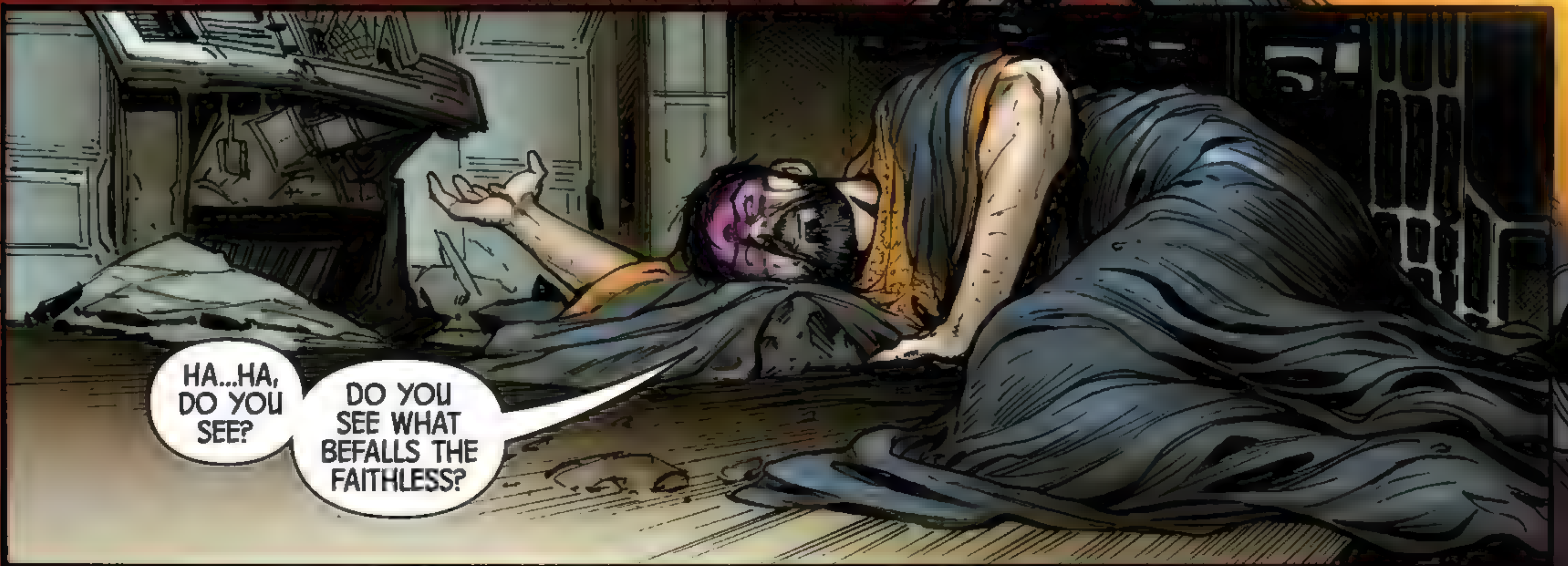
DAMMIT,
ROCKET.



IT ENDS NOW.



GAH!!!



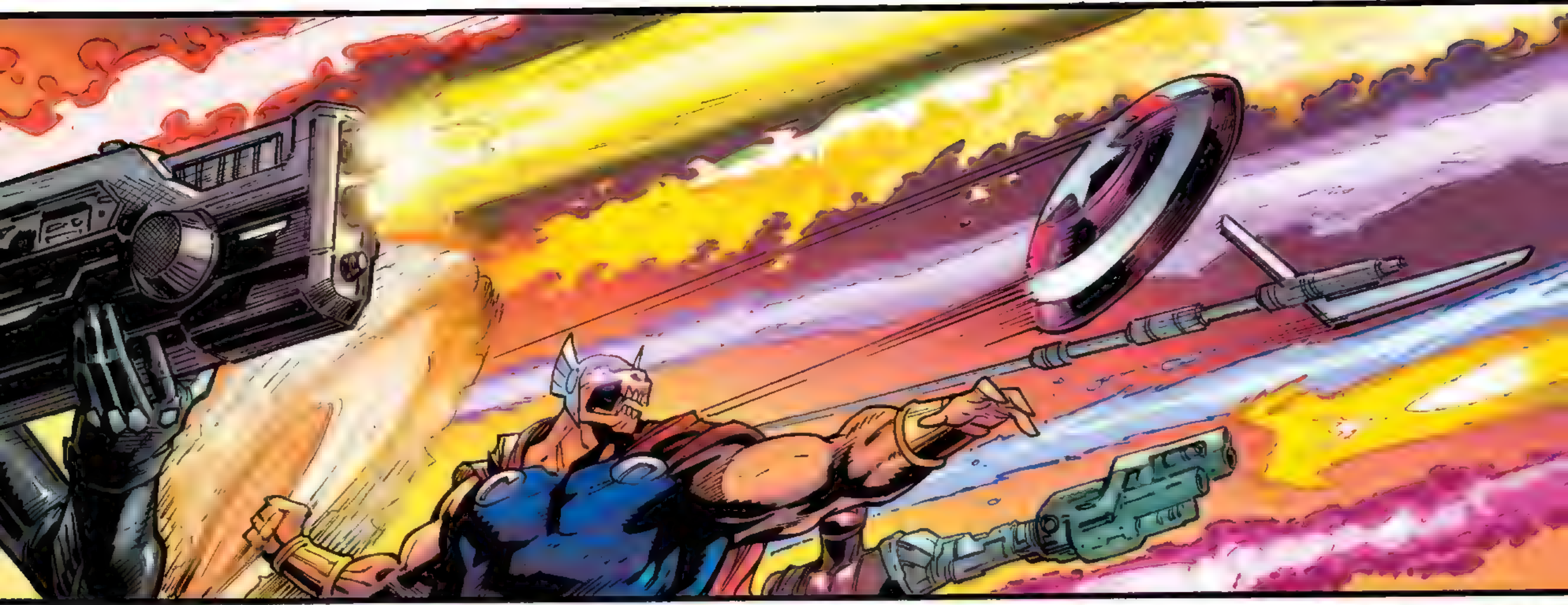
HA...HA,
DO YOU
SEE?

DO YOU
SEE WHAT
BEFALLS THE
FAITHLESS?



HOW CAN
YOU EXPECT
TO WIN...







AGH!!!



I'M
SORRY, PHYL
A, HONEY.

BUT I
KINDA NEED
YOU TO STOP
TRYING TO
KILL--



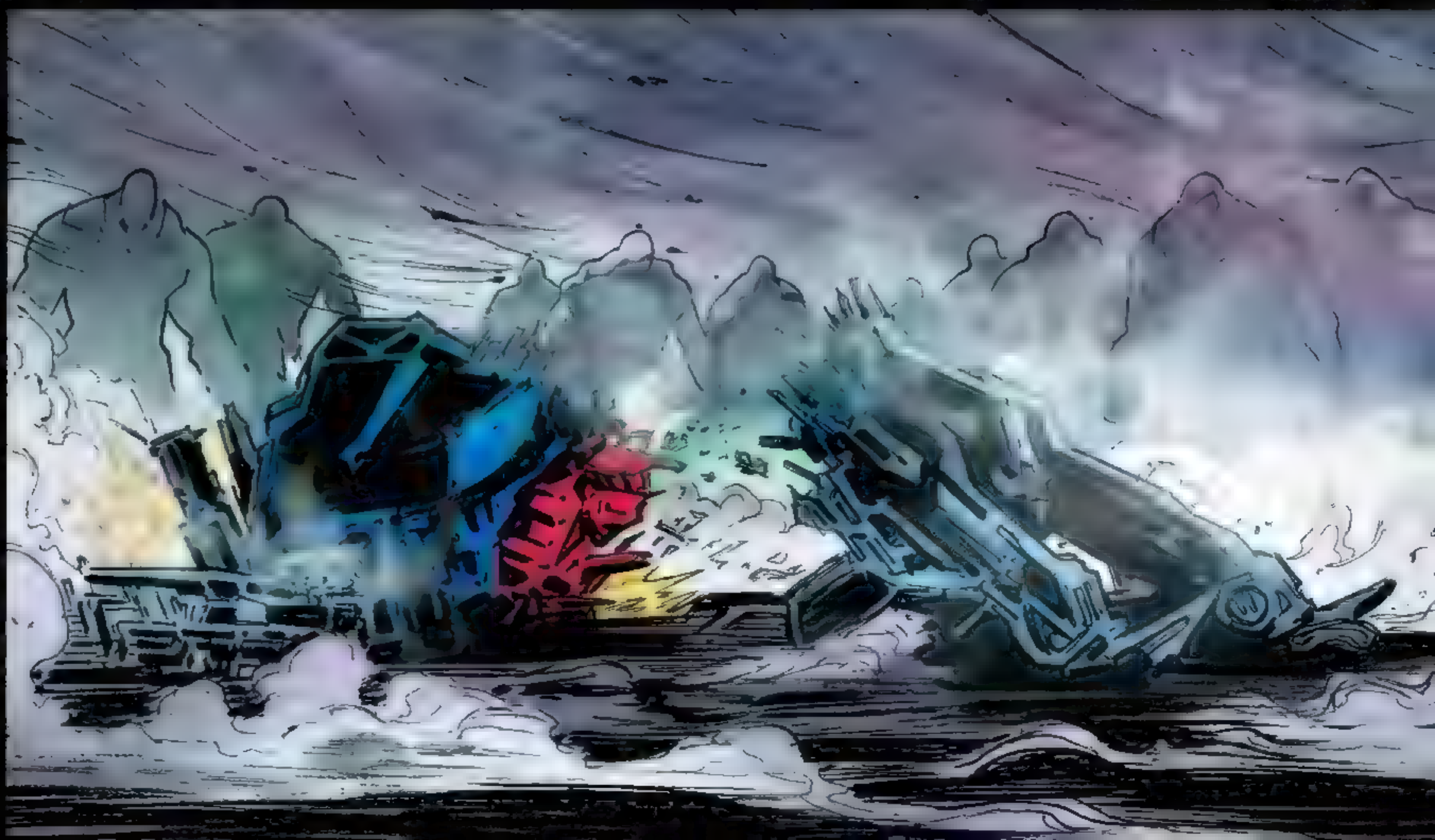
WAIT! NO,
GAMORA, PLEASE!
I HAVE TO GET
TO MY--



HEATHER,
COME ON! GROOT,
PETER, ANYONE!!!
GET UP! I CAN'T DO
ALL OF THIS ON
MY FLARKIN--



AGH!!!







...WE'VE ONLY ONE LAST THING LEFT.



YOU'RE INSANE...THIS IS EARTH!

THE AVENGERS WILL STOP YOU! THE X-MEN, SOMEONE! YOU CAN'T BEAT THEM!



AH, YOU MEAN HOW THE NOVA CORPS OR THE GUARDIANS OF THE GALAXY STOPPED US?



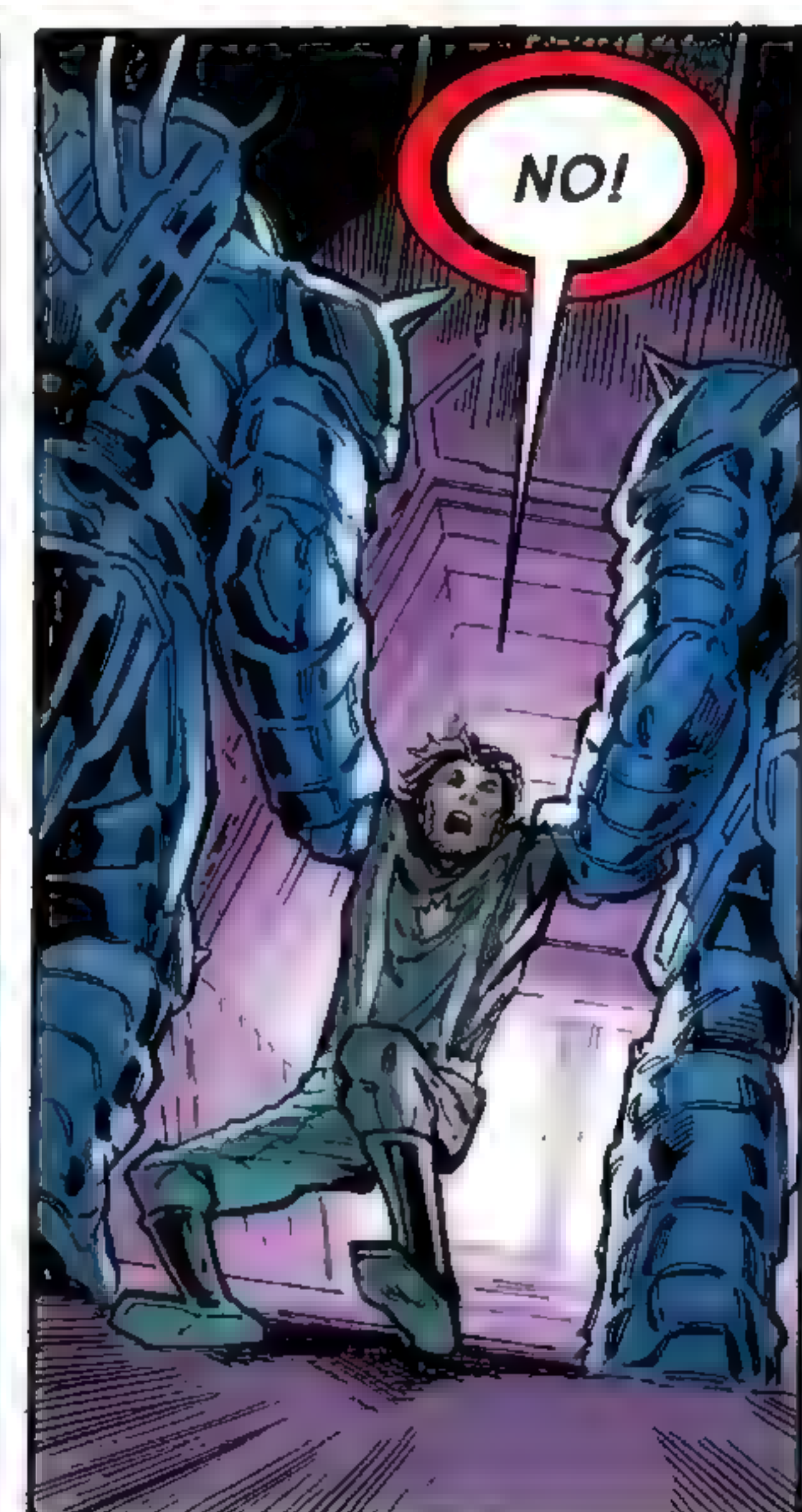
OUR ENGINES REMOVE THE WILL TO LIVE, PETER.

AND THE PEOPLE OF EARTH WILL GIVE US THEIRS AS ALL OTHERS HAVE.

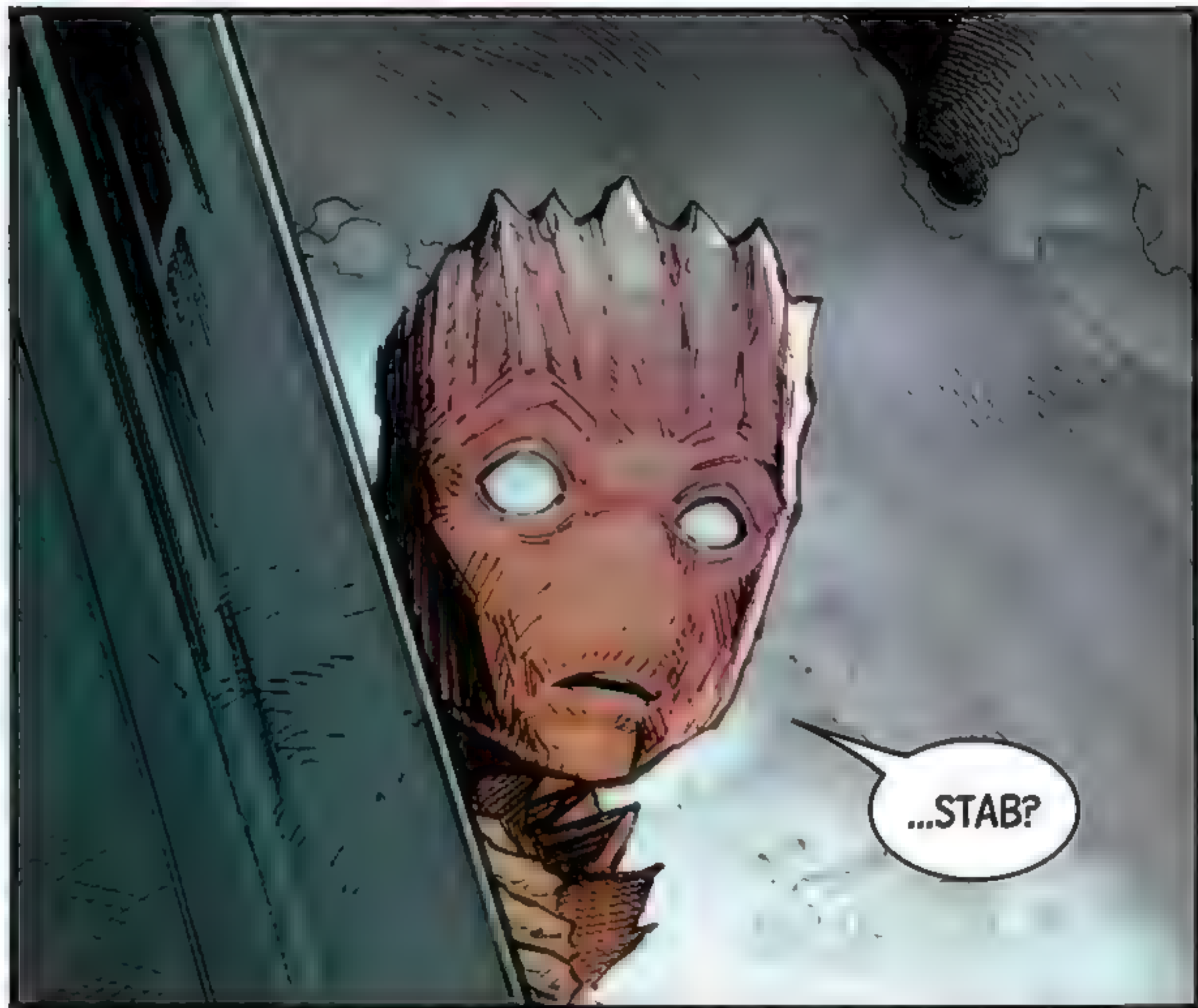
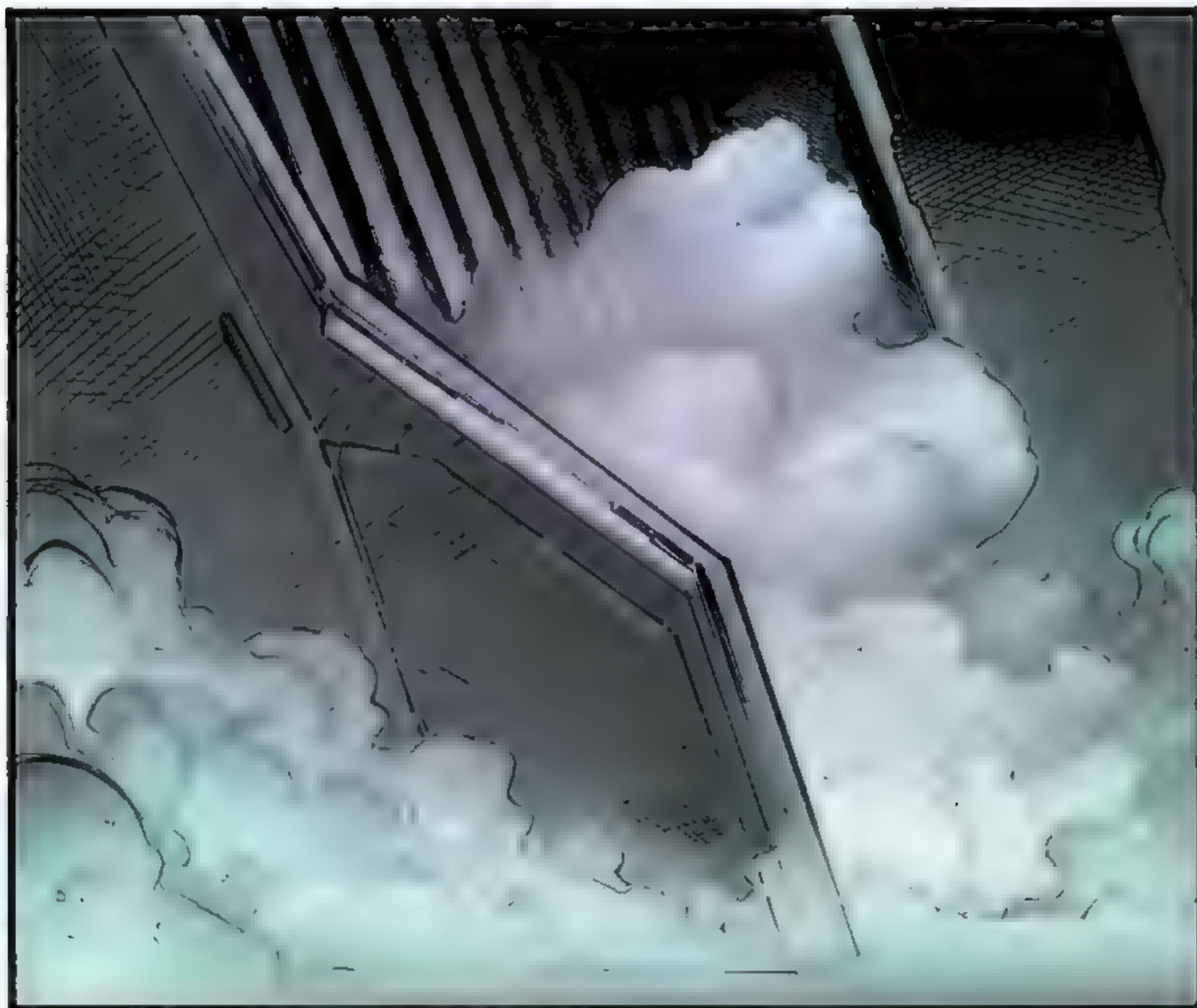


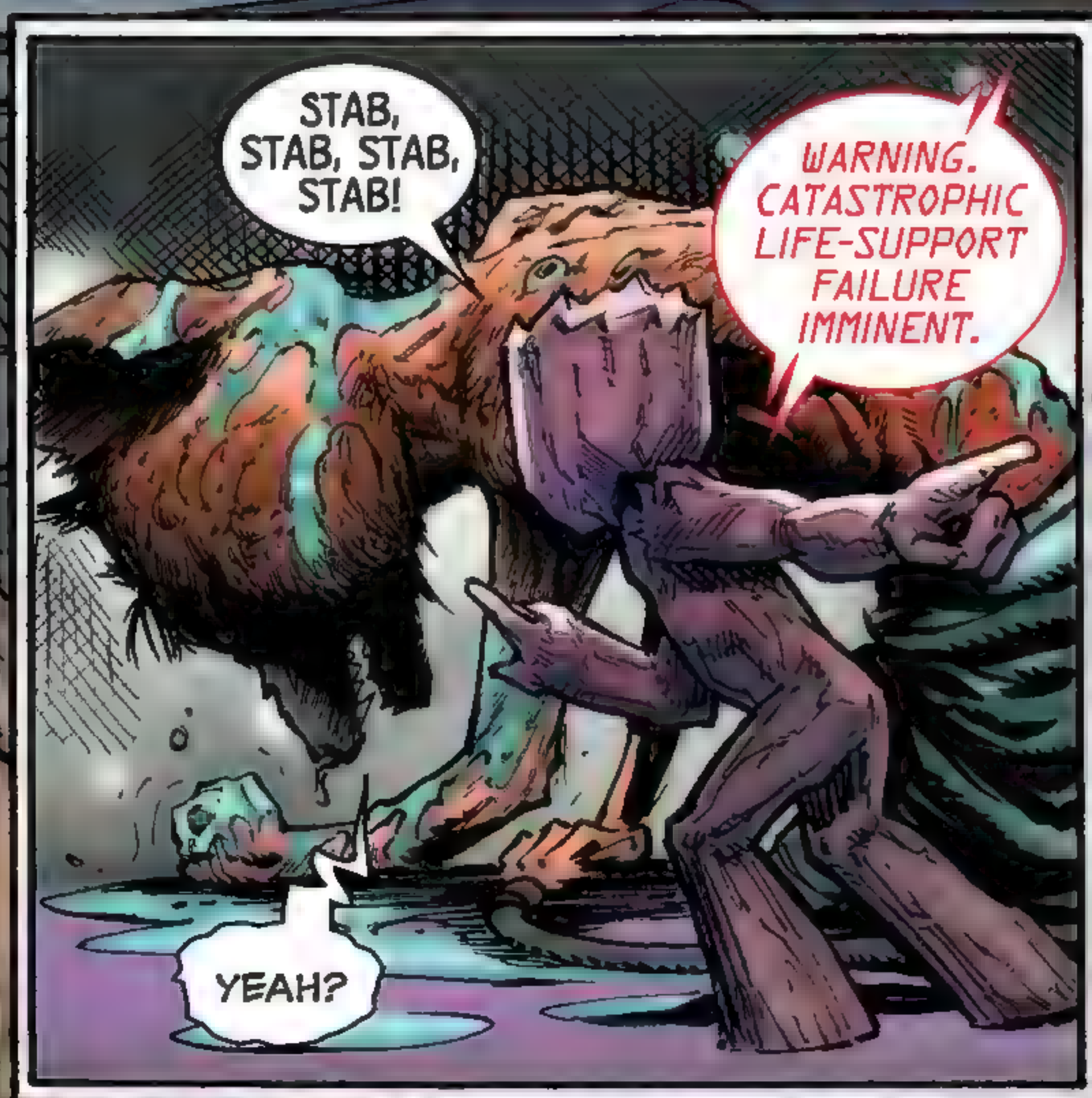
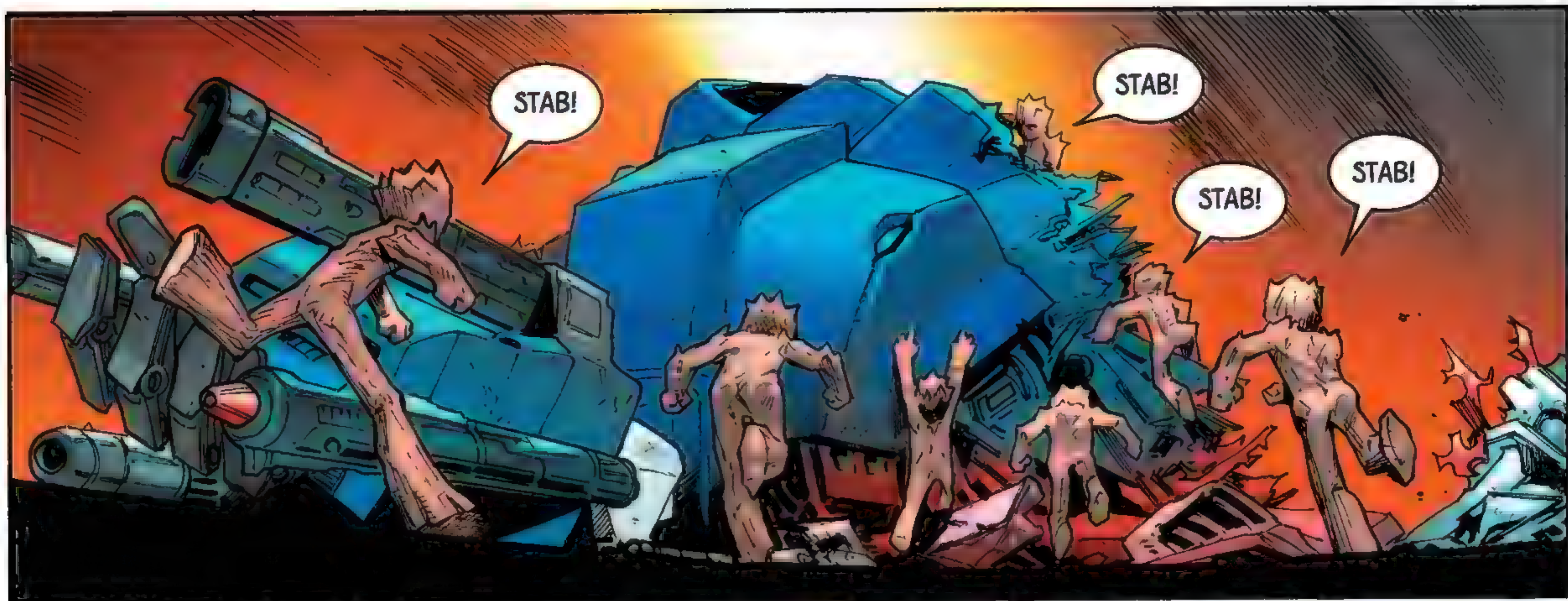
GUARDS, TAKE HIM AWAY AND PREPARE HIM AND THE OTHERS FOR CONVERSION.

START WITH GAMORA, PLEASE.



NO!







...GUESS
WE BETTER
HURRY.

WARNING.
CATASTROPHIC
LIFE-SUPPORT
FAILURE
IMMINENT.



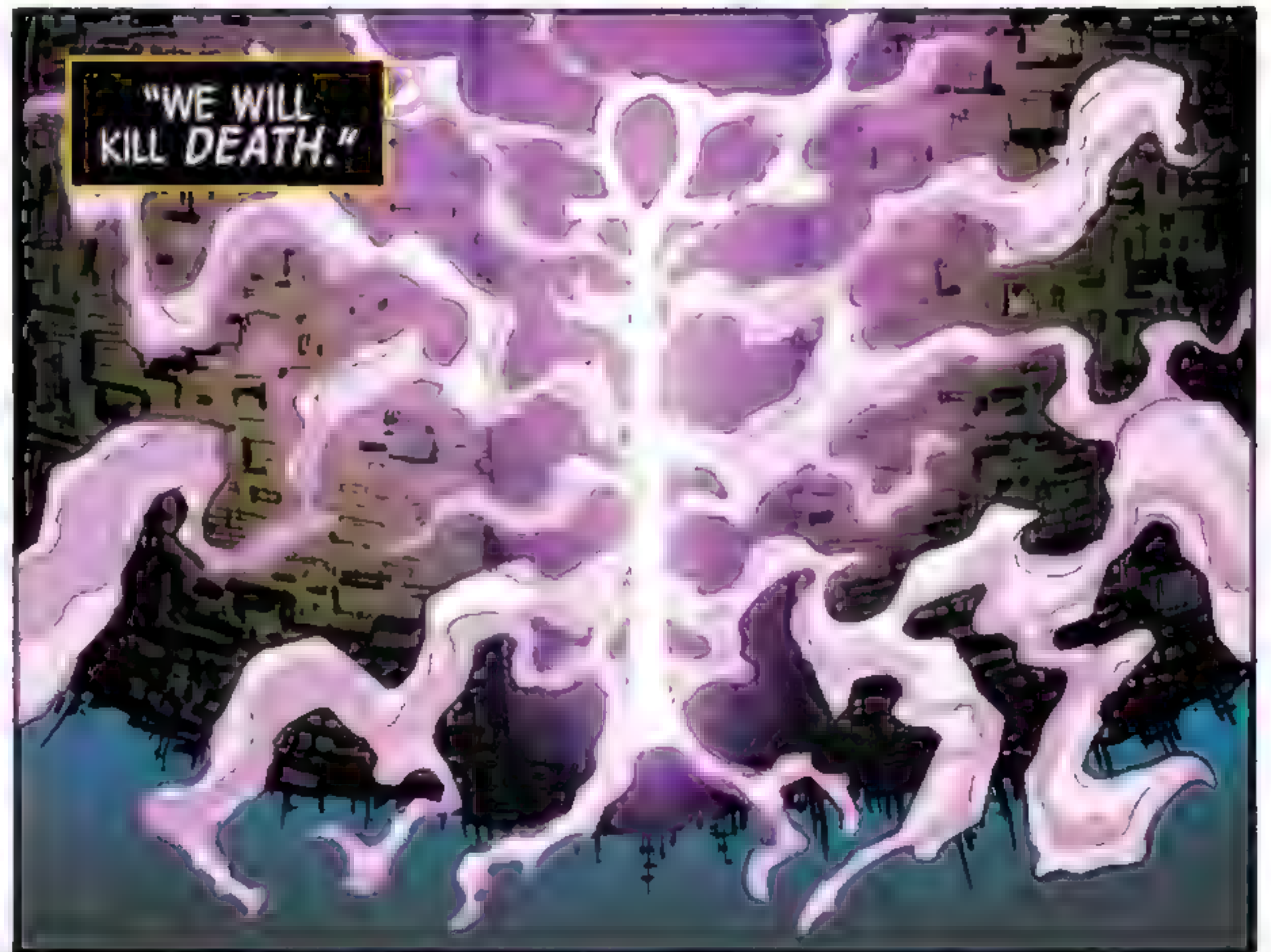
ARTHUR ADAMS & FEDERICO BLEE
#10 Mary Jane variant



TOM RANEY & CHRIS SOTOMAYOR
#12 2020 variant

TWELVE





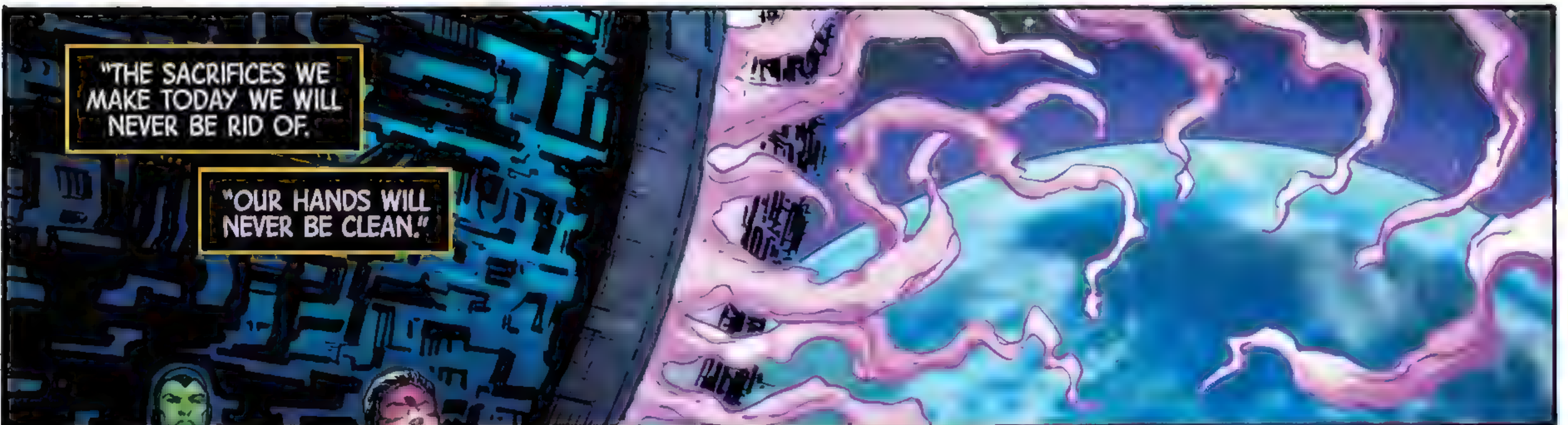
EARTH.

"WE ARE SO
CLOSE NOW."



I KNOW
THIS HAS BEEN
HARD ON YOU,
MY CHILDREN.

BUT
ANYTHING
THAT IS WORTH
DOING IS.



"THE SACRIFICES WE
MAKE TODAY WE WILL
NEVER BE RID OF.

"OUR HANDS WILL
NEVER BE CLEAN."



BUT WE DO
THIS IN THE NAME
OF THE BILLIONS THAT
DEATH HAS TAKEN IN HIS
RAMPAGE ACROSS
THE GALAXY!

WE WILL KILL
MANY THIS DAY.
THERE IS NO WAY
AROUND IT.

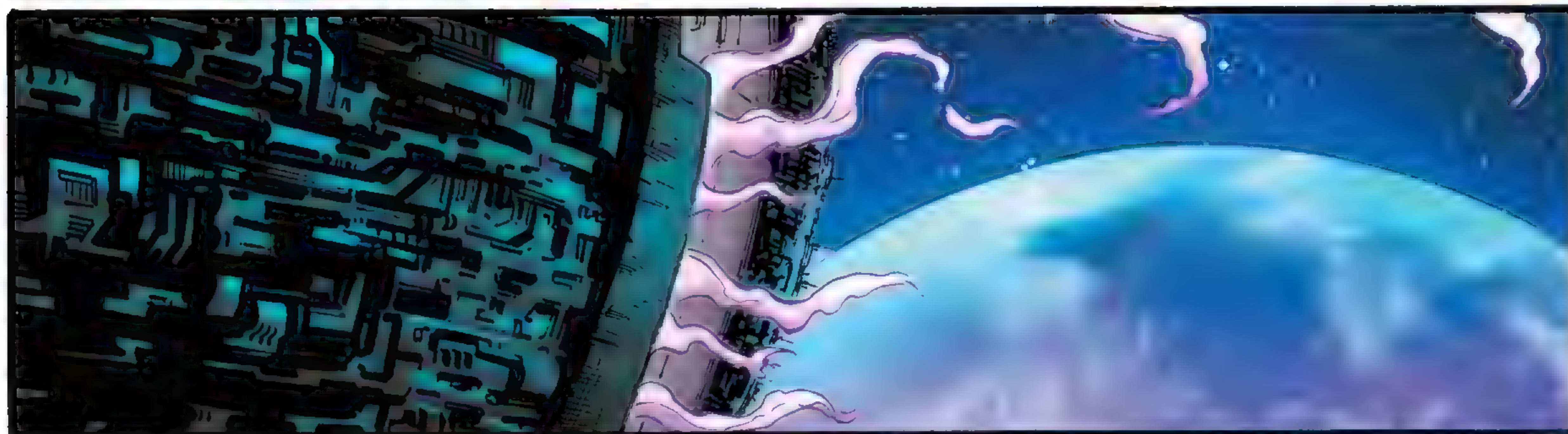
WE DO
THIS TO BANISH
EVIL FROM A FUTURE
UNDESERVING OF HIS
GROTESQUE MARCH
OF WAR!

BECAUSE
WE ARE
RIGHTEOUS!

BECAUSE WE
BELIEVE!



BECAUSE
WE HAVE
FAI--



WHAT THE HELL
WAS THAT? DID
WE LOSE
POWER?

UH...
YEAH.

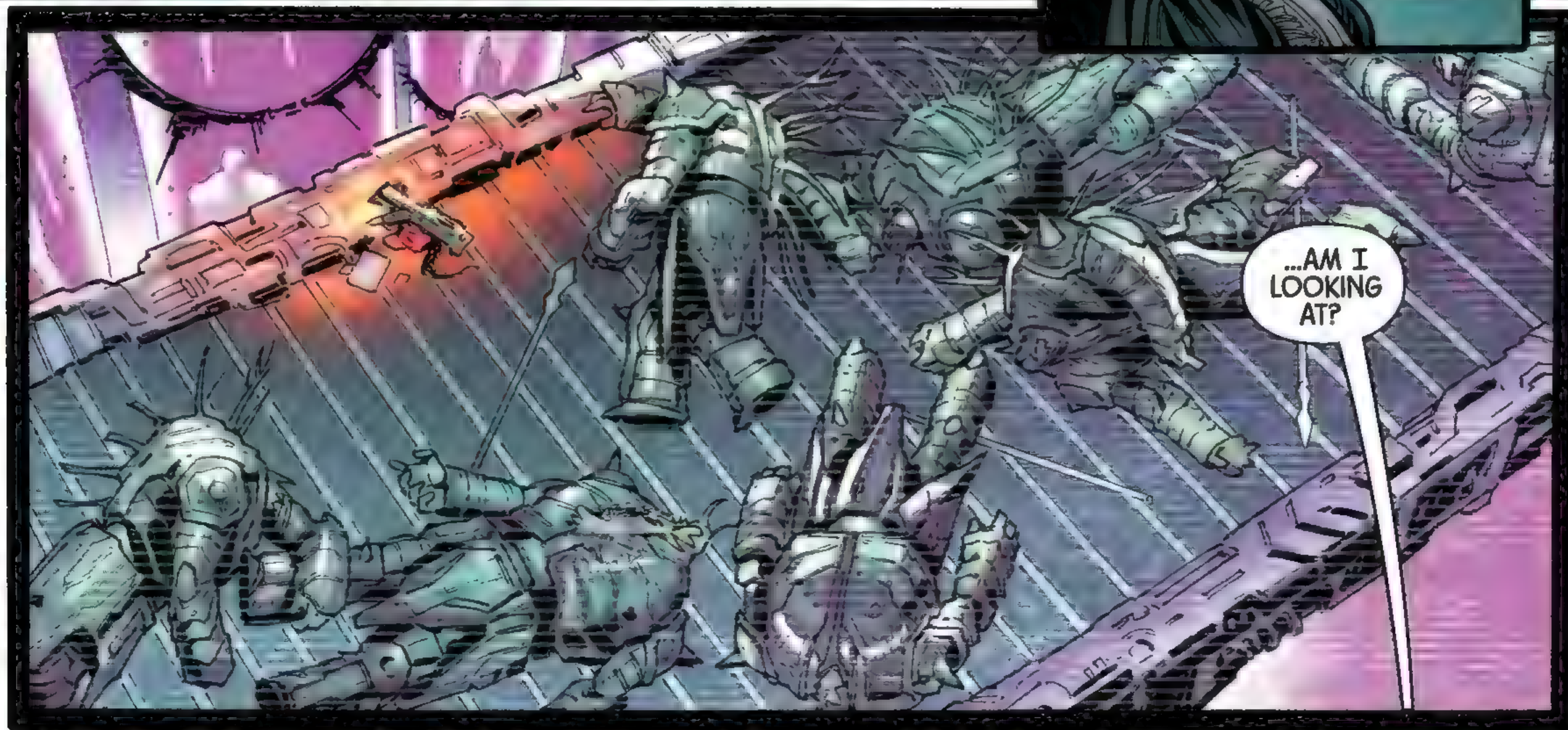
WELL, GET
IT BACK UP
AGAIN! WHY
ARE YOU JUST
SITTING
THERE?!

WE...UM...
WE HAVE A
VISUAL FROM
THE ENGINE
ROOM, SIR.

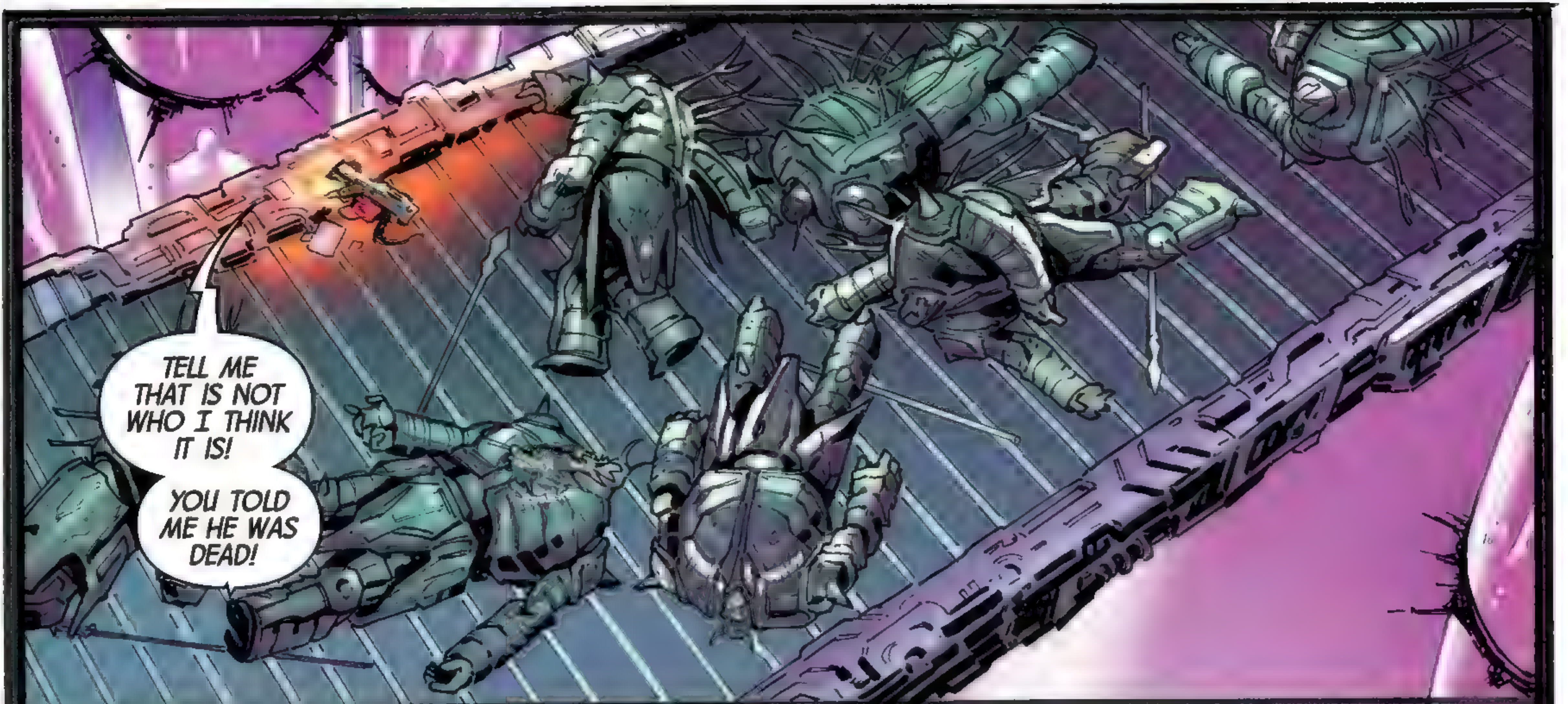
PUT IT
UP ON THE
MAIN!



WHAT...

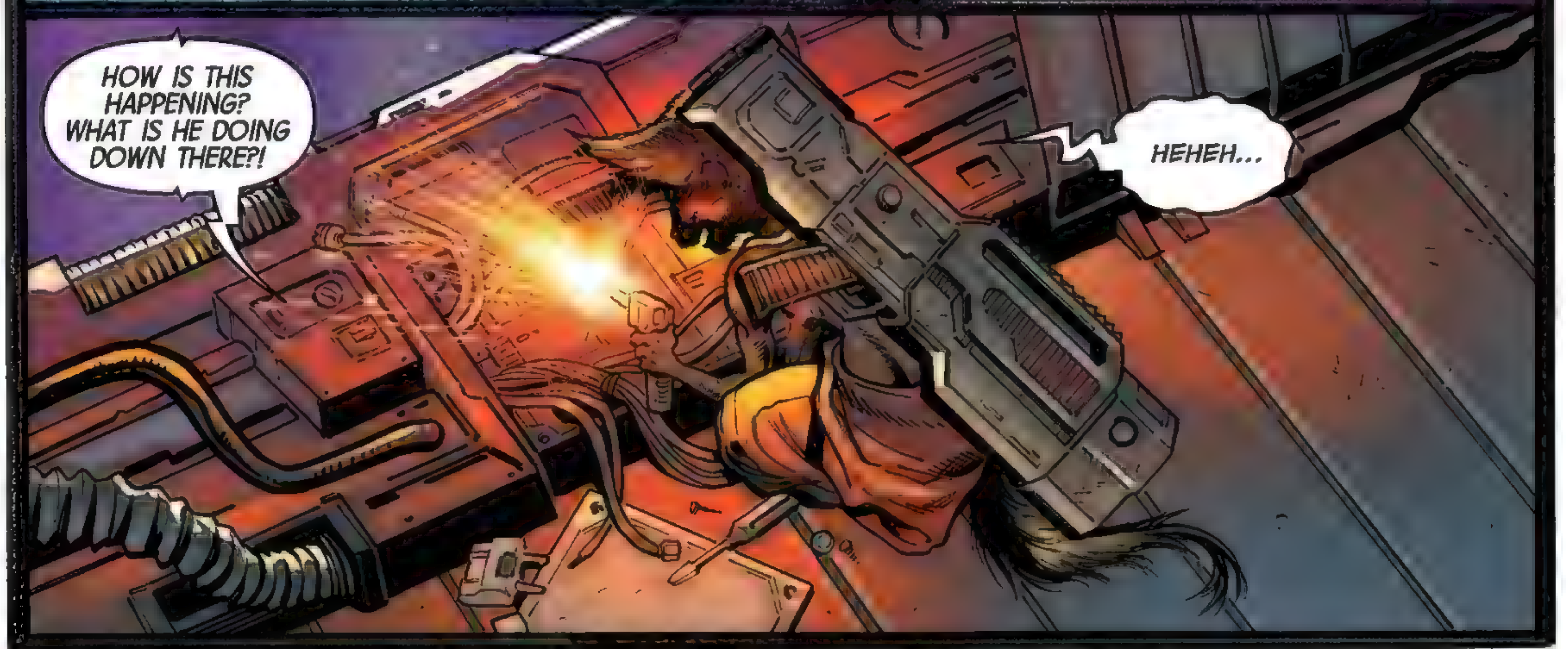


...AM I
LOOKING
AT?



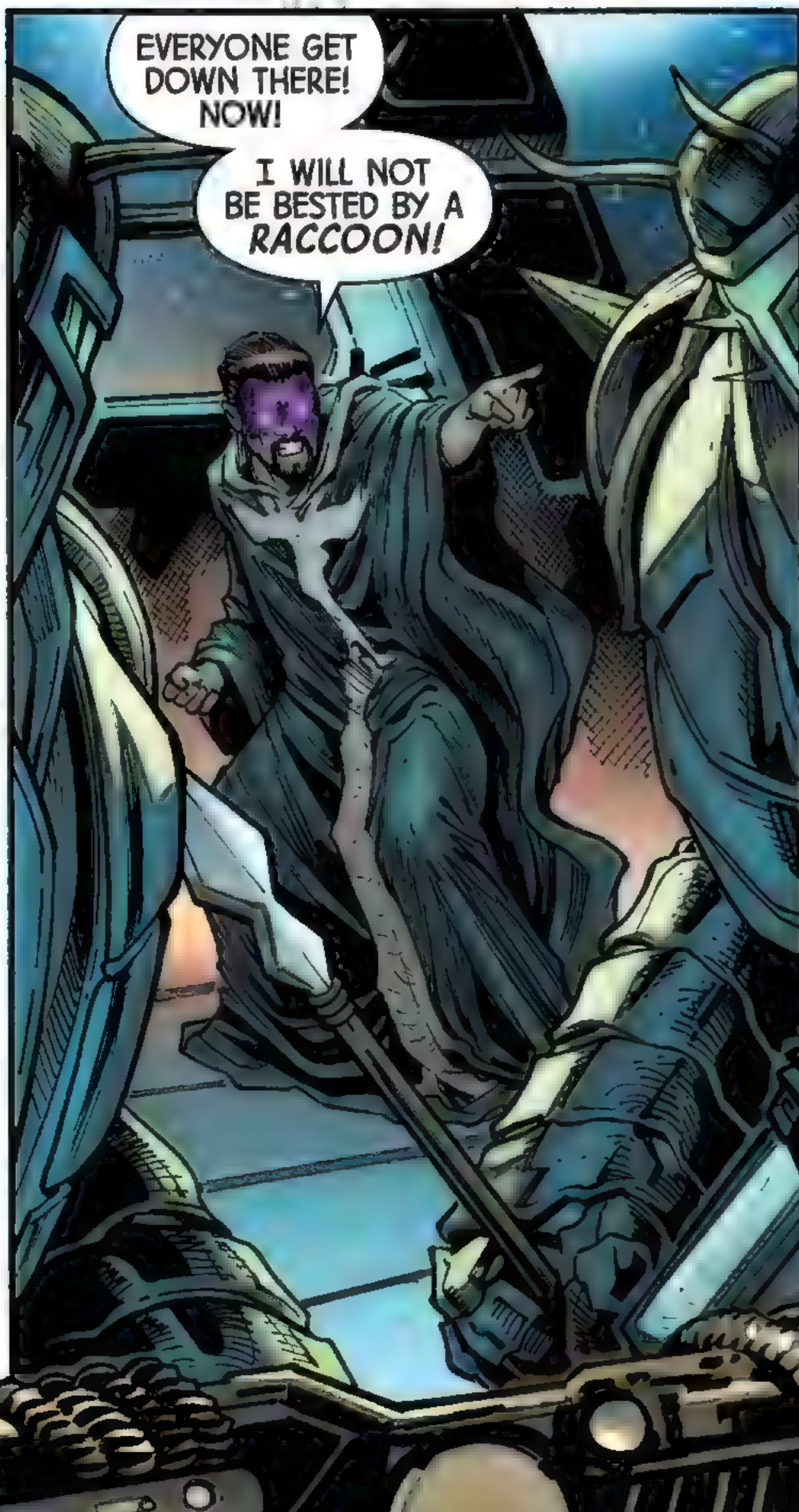
TELL ME
THAT IS NOT
WHO I THINK
IT IS!

YOU TOLD
ME HE WAS
DEAD!



HOW IS THIS
HAPPENING?
WHAT IS HE DOING
DOWN THERE?!

HEHEH...



EVERYONE GET
DOWN THERE!
NOW!

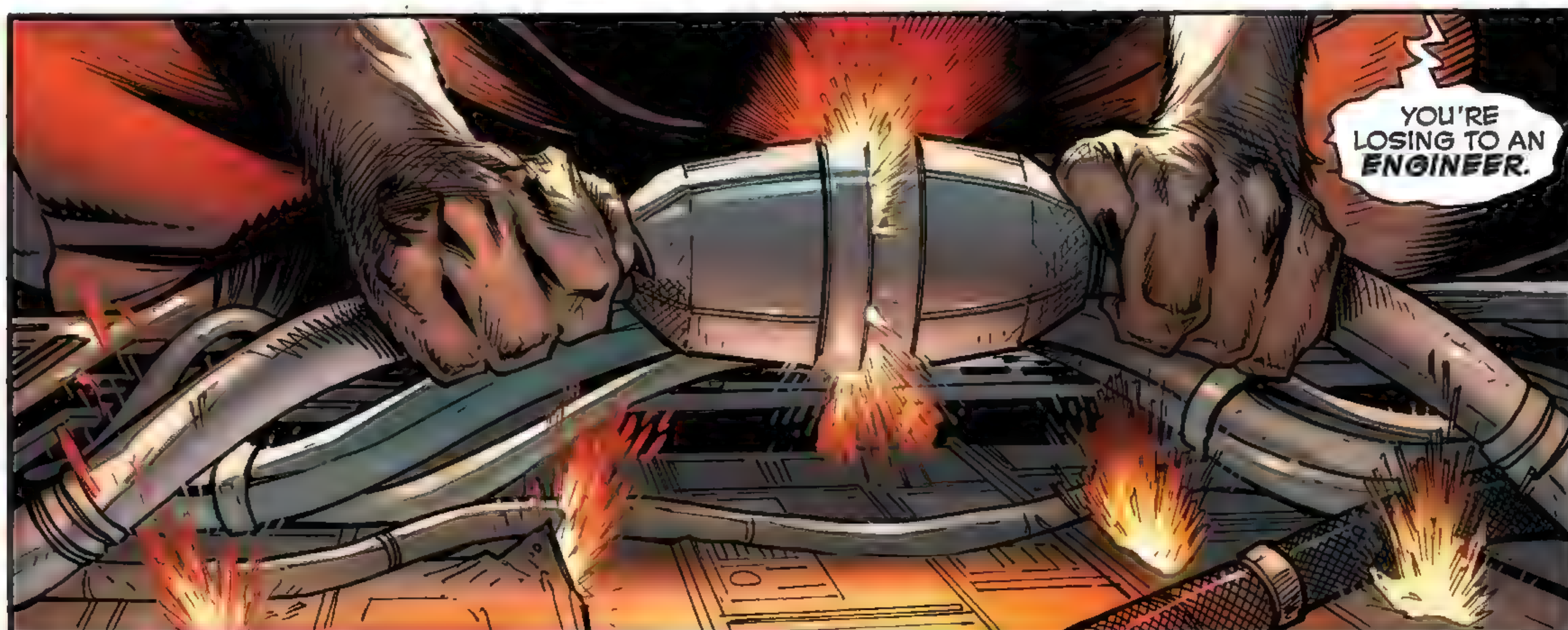
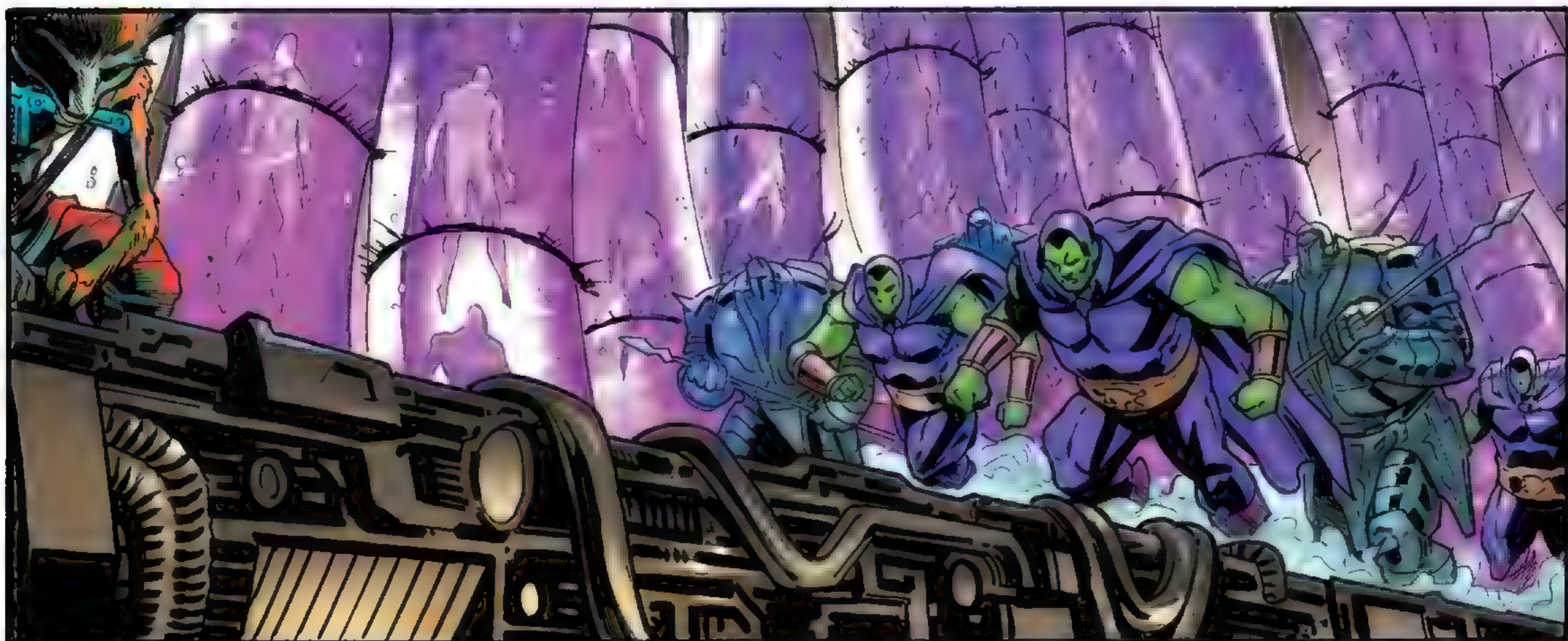
I WILL NOT
BE BESTED BY A
RACCOON!



HEY THERE,
CHIEF, THIS IS
ROCKET. WE MET
EARLIER WHEN I
DROVE A SPACESHIP
THROUGH YOUR
SPACESHIP.

I'M TAKING
CONTROL OF YOUR
COMMS BECAUSE I'M
TIRED OF HEARING
YOUR NUTTY VOICE,
OKAY?

BUT HEY,
I GOT SOME
GOOD NEWS
FOR YA.

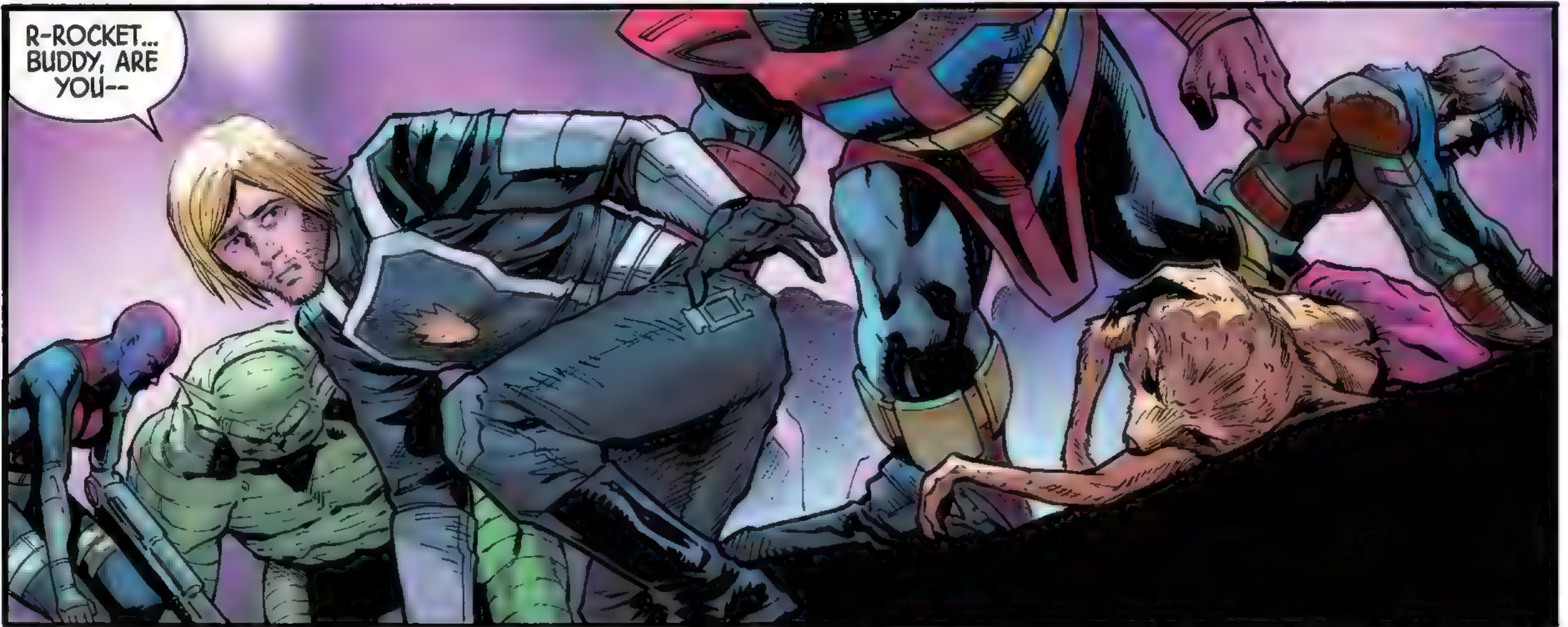




"...WE'RE ALMOST
AT MAXIMUM
CAPACITY."



R-ROCKET...
BUDDY, ARE
YOU--



HEYA,
PETE.

YOU GUYS
SHOULD...UH...
PROBABLY GET
THE HELL OUT
OF HERE.

I SET THE
SHIP TO JUMP
BACK TO ITS
ORIGINAL TIMELINE
IN A FEW
MINUTES, SO--



AGH!!!





GRRAAAAGH!!!

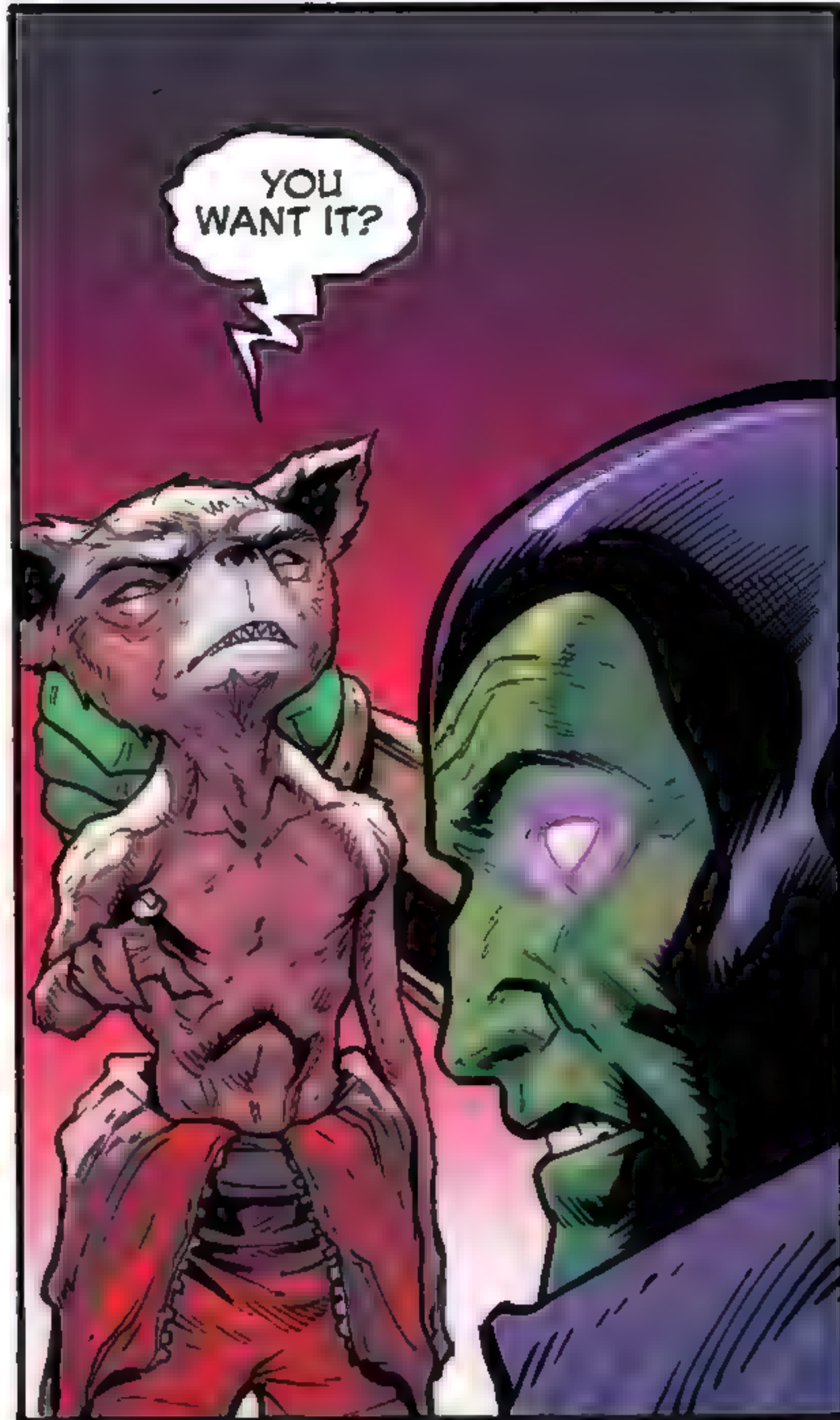


DO YOU
FEEL IT?
COURSING
THROUGH
YOU?

JUST GIVE
IN...GIVE US YOUR
WILL TO LIVE. JUST
LET GO AND HAVE
FAITH, LITTLE---



HAVE
THAT.





AGH!!!

I HAVE HAD ENOUGH!

BILL, IF YOU WOULD BE SO KIND?

AYE!



PUT MY FRIEND DOWN!

UNFI!



YOU HAVE BEEN RESURRECTED IN MY FATHER'S IMAGE. REBORN WITH FRAGMENTED PIECES OF A MAN THAT NEVER WAS, IN A TIMELINE THAT THE CHURCH COULD REACH WITH THEIR HALF-DEAD ENGINES.

AGGHH!



WHA... WHAT IS--

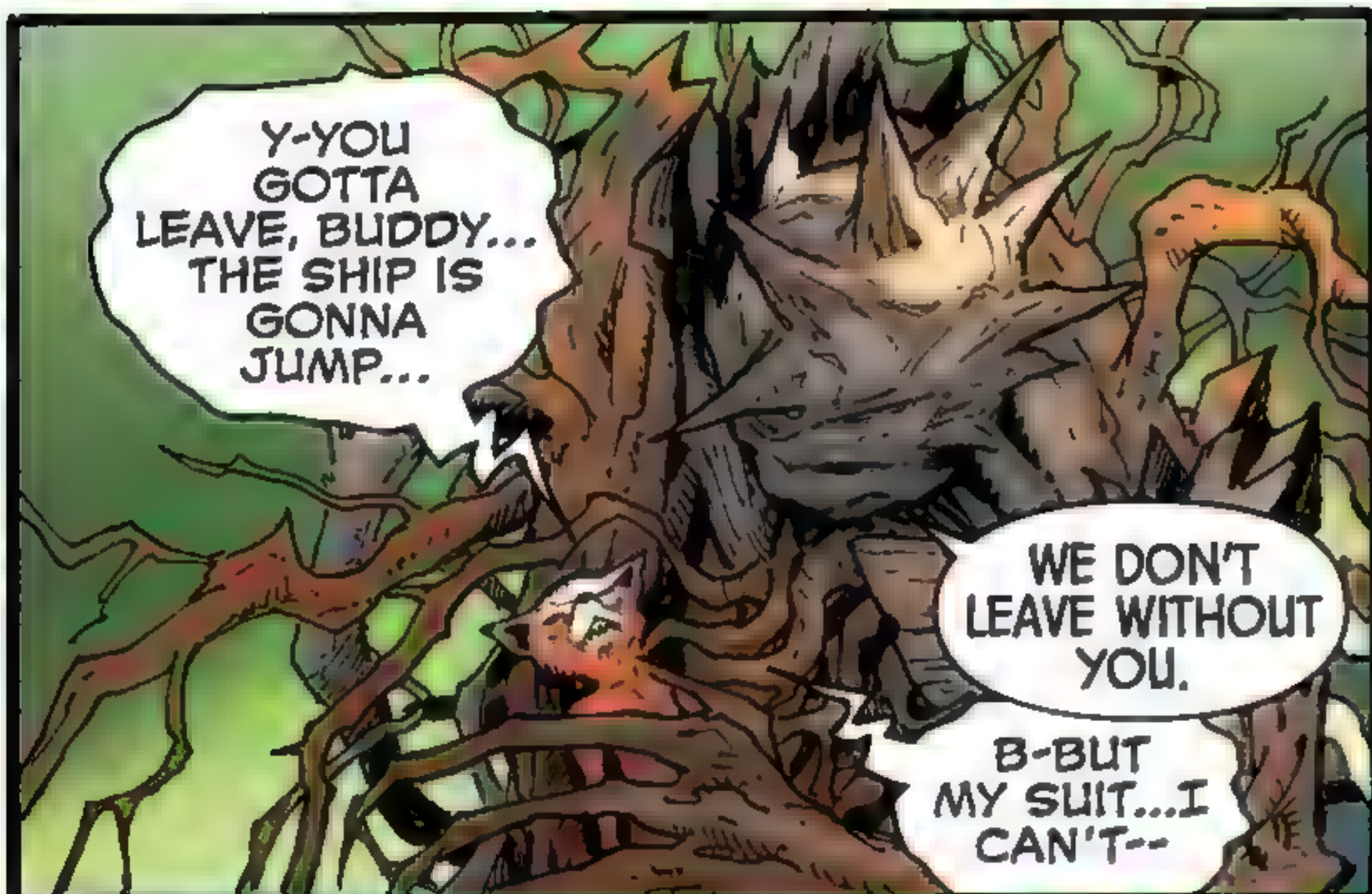
GROOT HAS YOU.



I'M NOT
GOING TO
KILL YOU,
DRAX.

YOU DID
NOT ASK TO
BE BORN INTO
THIS BODY...

AGHH!!!



Y-YOU
GOTTA
LEAVE, BUDDY...
THE SHIP IS
GONNA
JUMP...

WE DON'T
LEAVE WITHOUT
YOU.

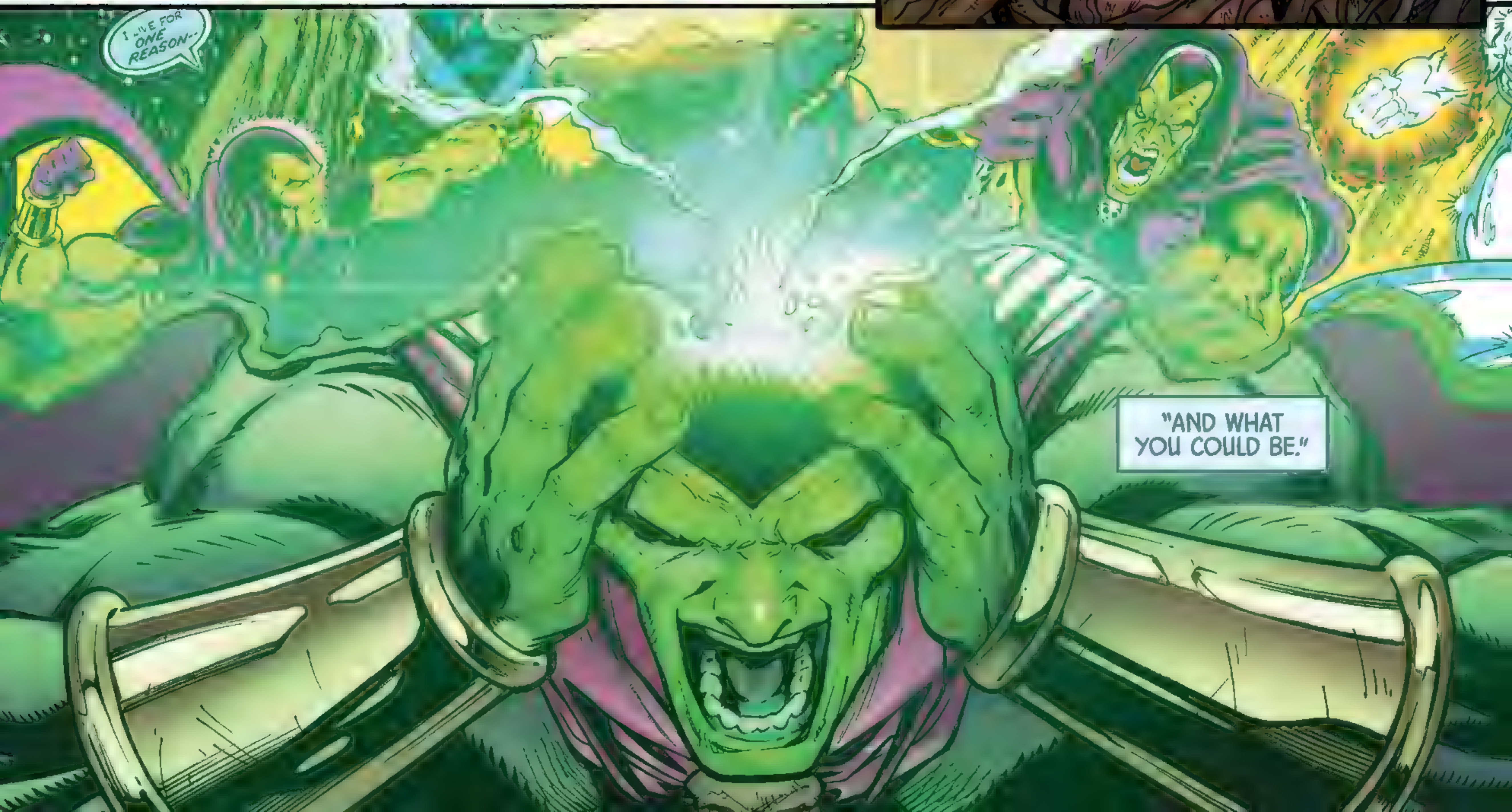
B-BUT
MY SUIT...I
CAN'T--



"...BUT I WILL MAKE
YOU WATCH WHAT
YOU HAVE BECOME."



DON'T
WORRY.



I LIVE FOR
ONE
REASON...

"AND WHAT
YOU COULD BE."



I AM GROOT.



HELL...

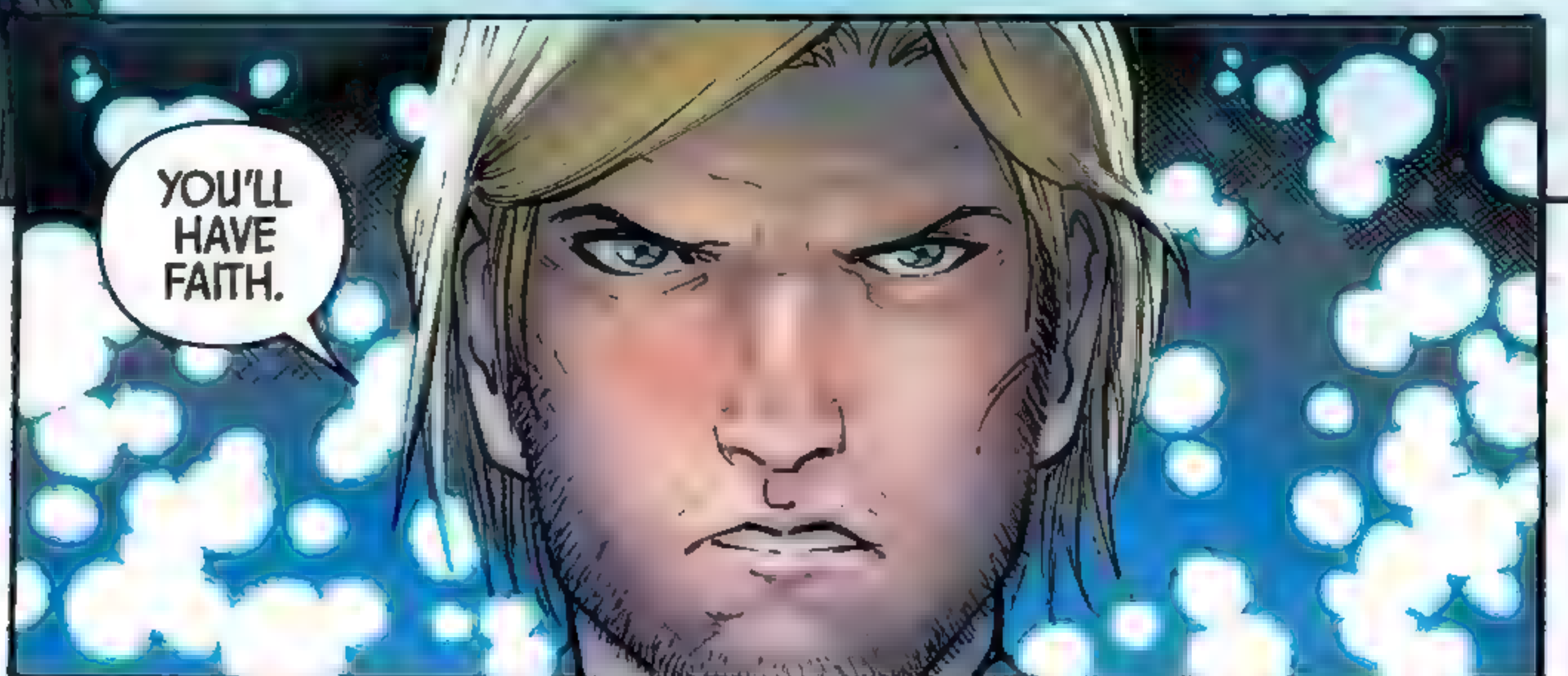
...YEAH.



R-ROCKET?
YOU...

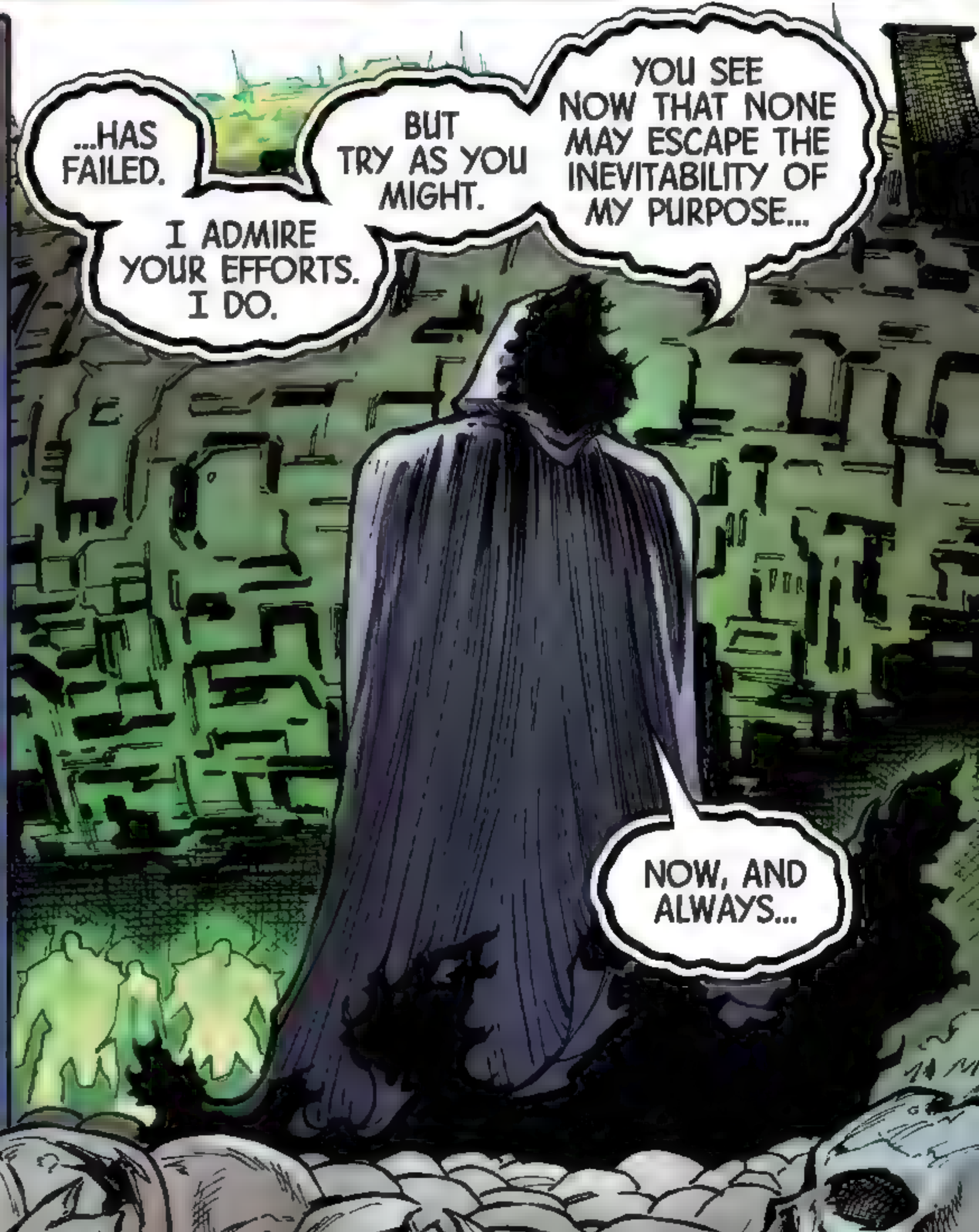


...YOU
LOOK SO
STUPID.





BILLIONS OF YEARS FROM NOW.
THE END OF EVERYTHING.





...THANOS
WINS.



NOW.
HALFWORLD.
THE THIRD-RATED
CROSS-SECTOR NO-HILL
SURGICAL CENTER IN THE GALAXY.



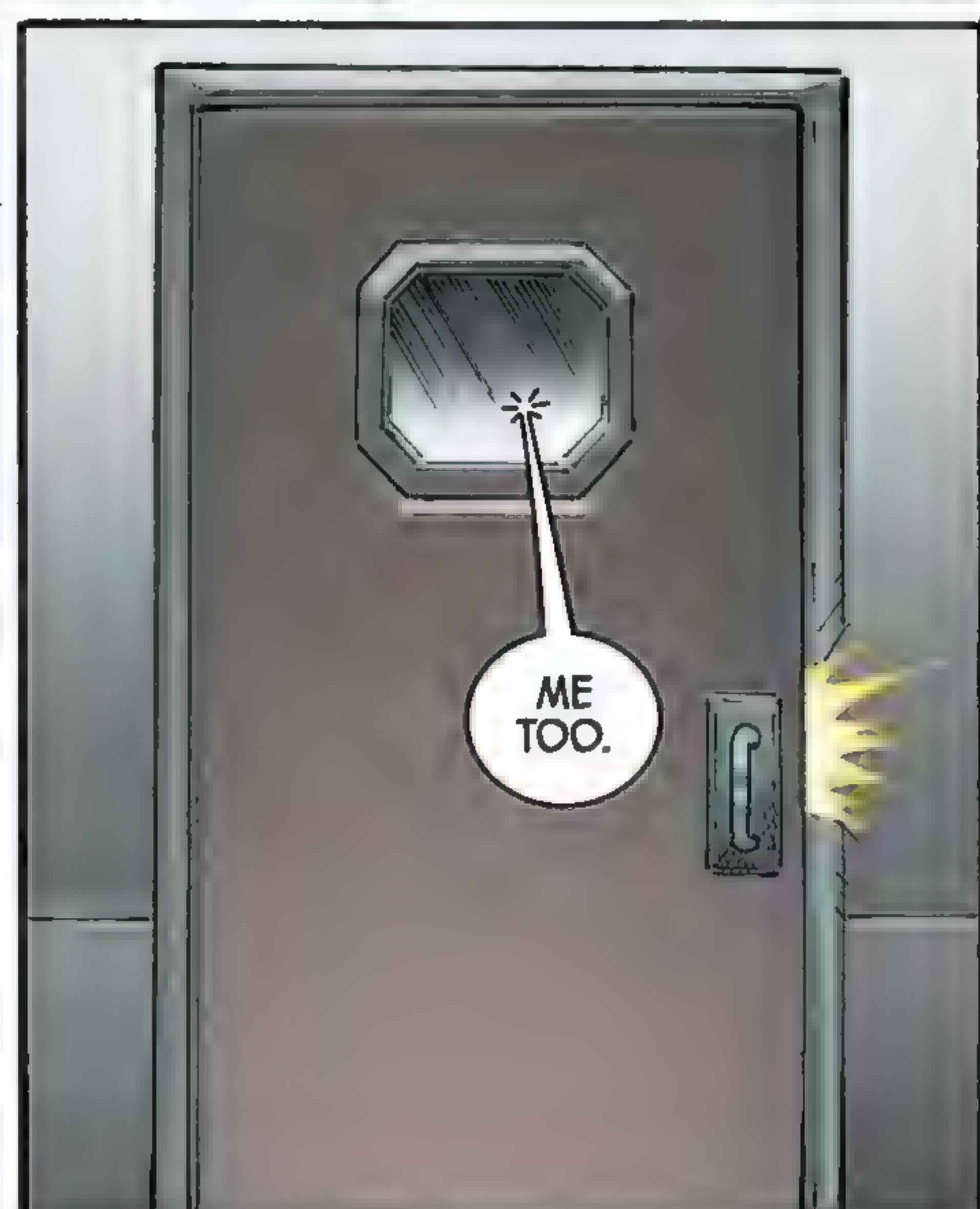
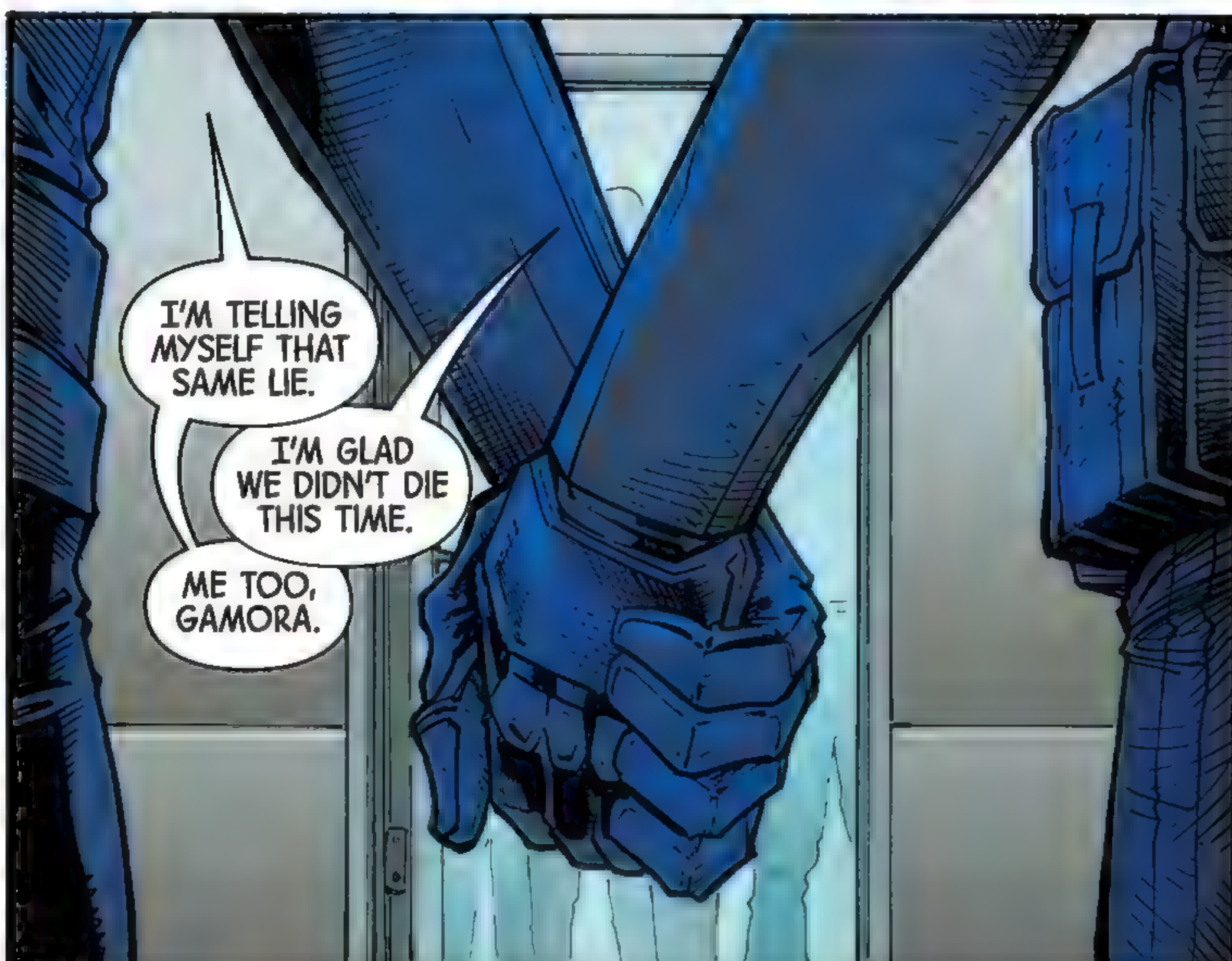
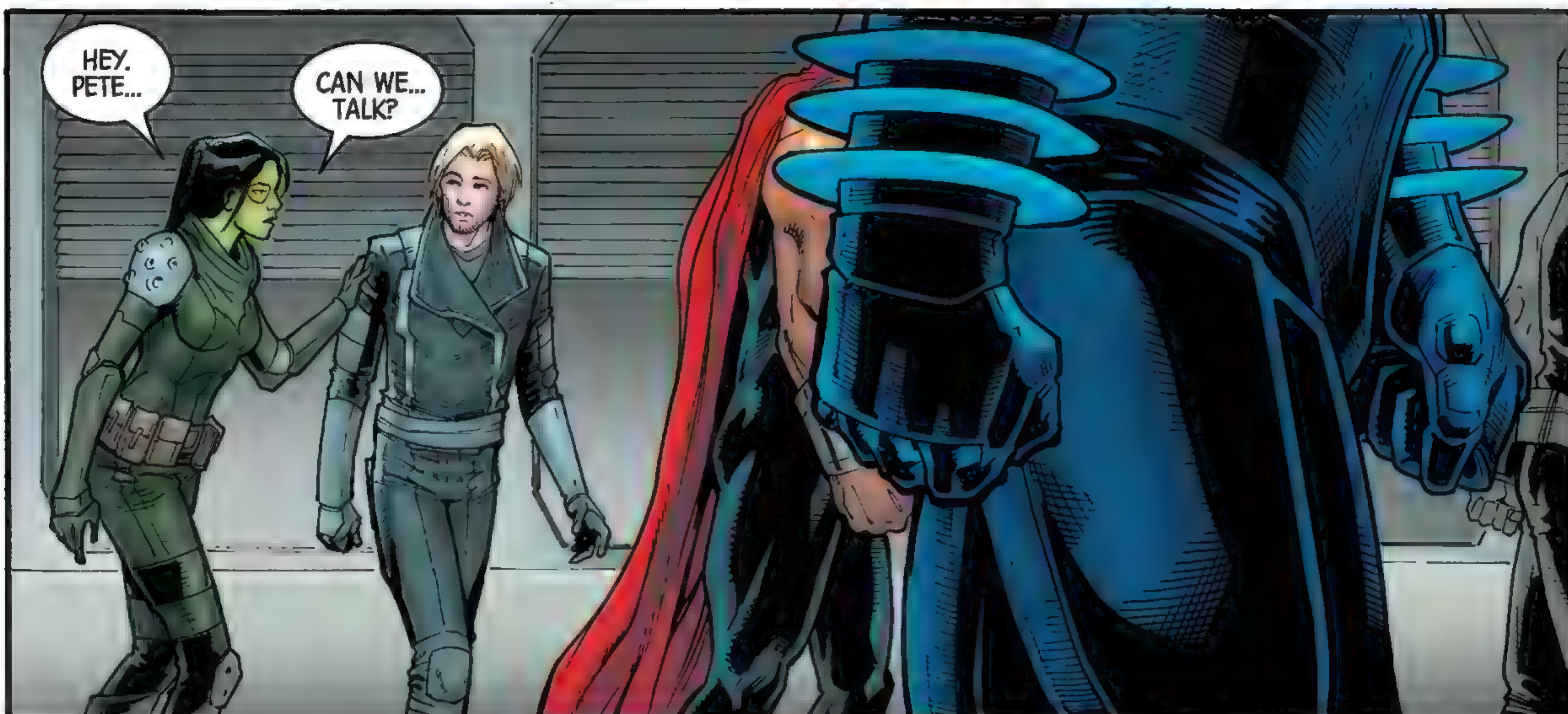
YOUR
FRIEND IS
GOING TO
BE OKAY.

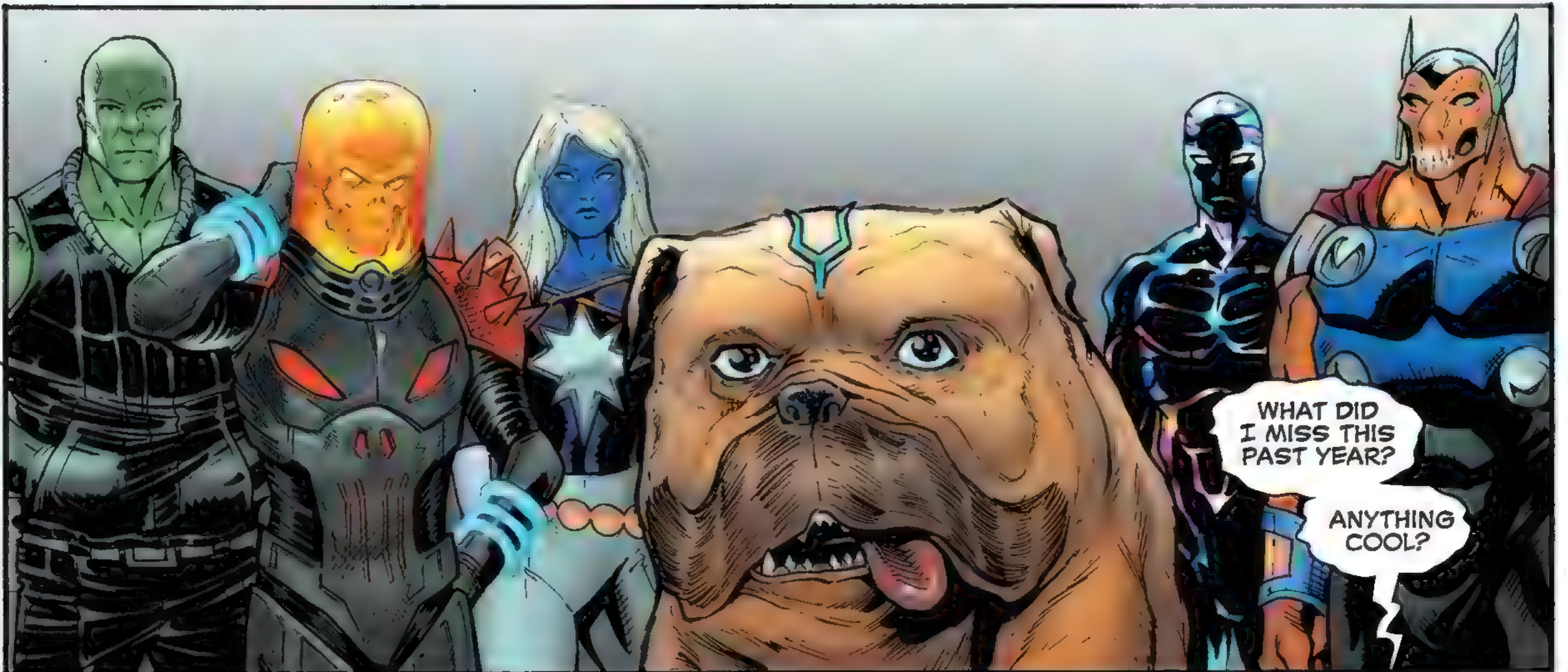
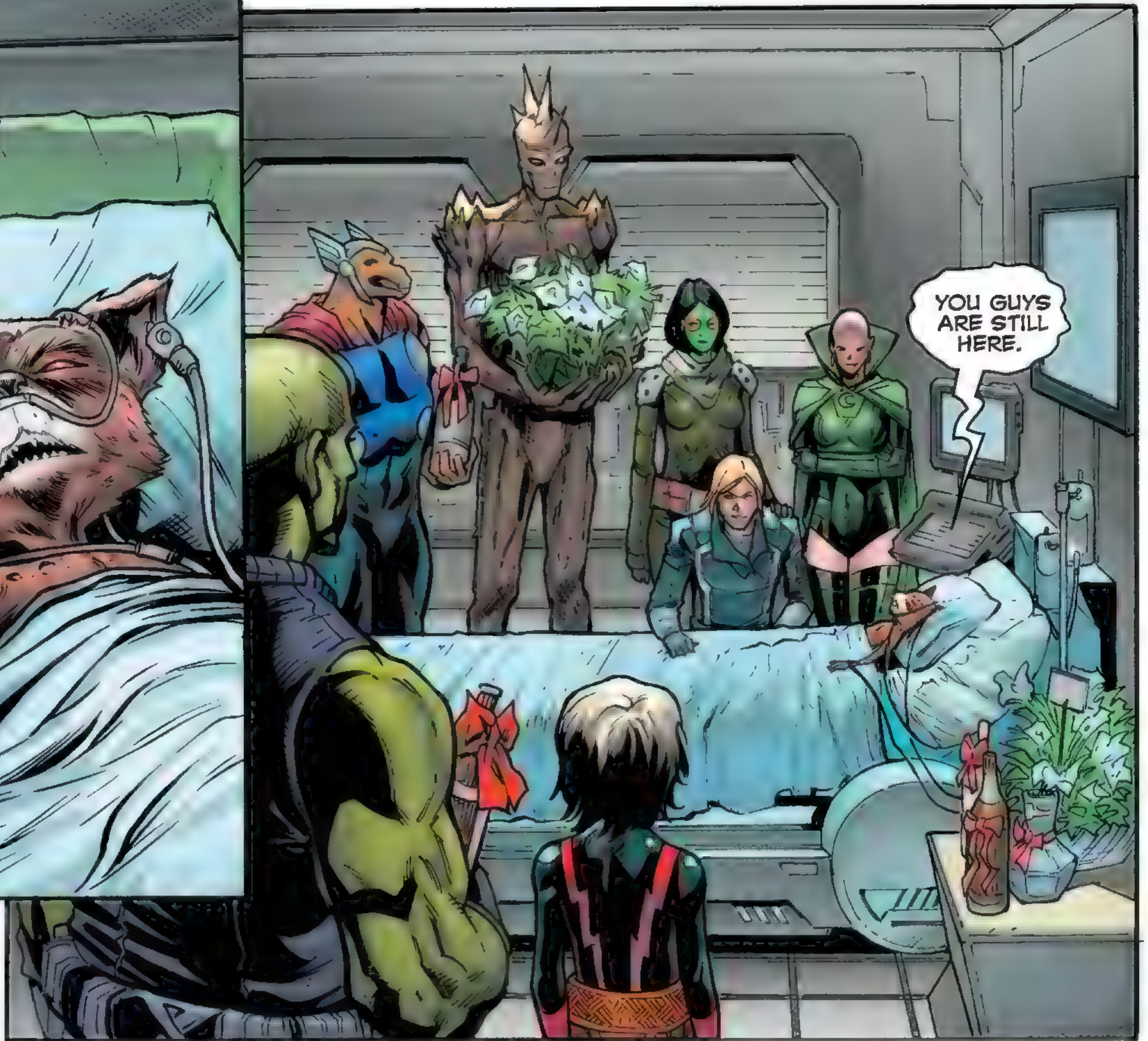
HIS BIO-
MODIFICATIONS
ARE OUT-OF-DATE,
AND FRANKLY HE'S LUCKY
TO BE ALIVE, BUT WE
BELIEVE HE WILL
RECOVER NICELY.

AT THE
MOMENT HE IS
HEAVILY SEDATED.
BUT YOU SHOULD
BE ABLE TO SEE
HIM NOW.



IT WILL
BE GOOD FOR
HIM TO SEE HIS
FAMILY.















NAH, NOT MUCH.

I TRAVELED TO THE DAWN OF TIME AND SEEDED LIFE ACROSS THE GALAXY, ONLY TO GIVE BIRTH TO MY OWN HOME PLANET AND THEN BE REBORN AS--

NOTHING REALLY, NO.

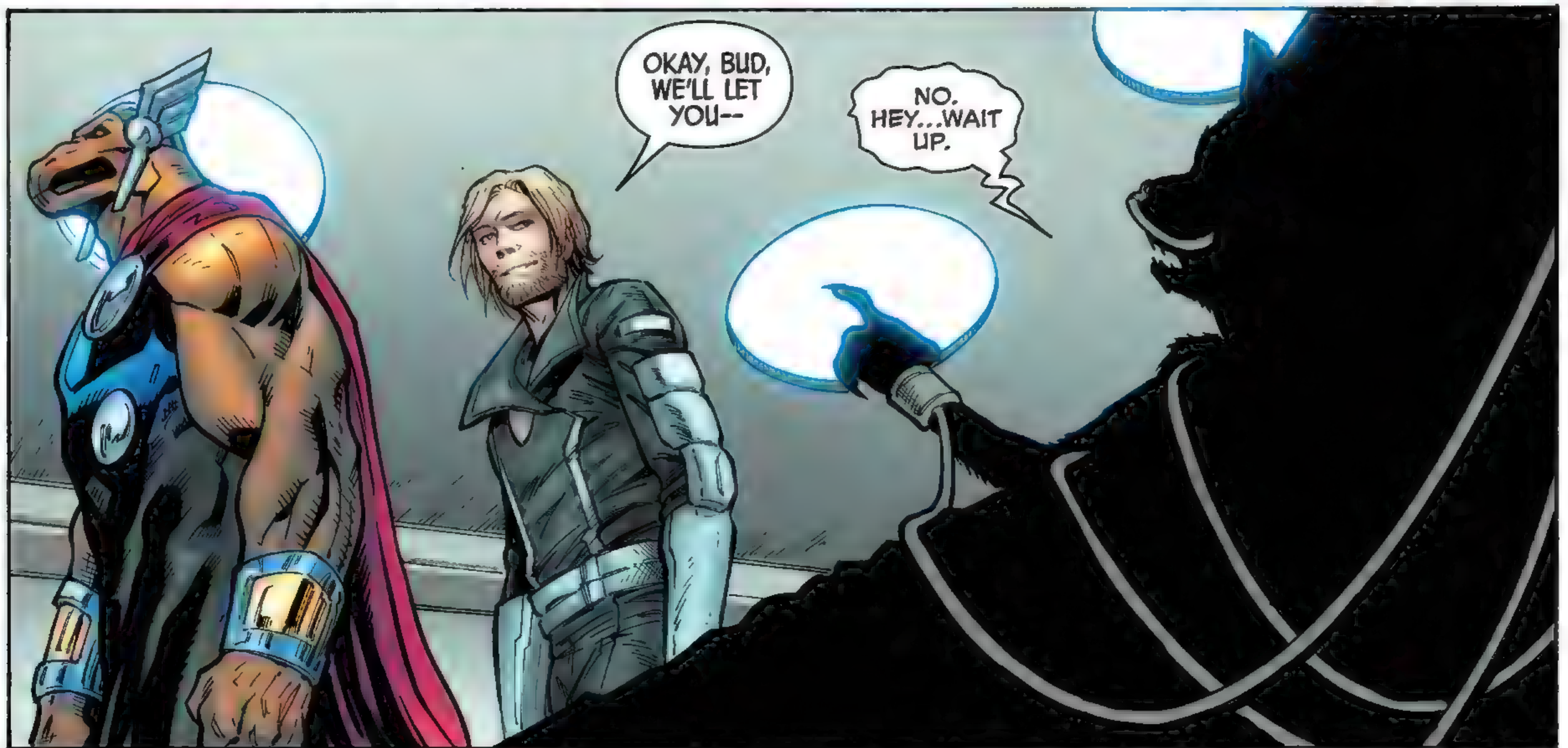


HEHE, I KNEW IT.

HEY, UH... YOU GUYS MIND IF I GET SOME SLEEP?

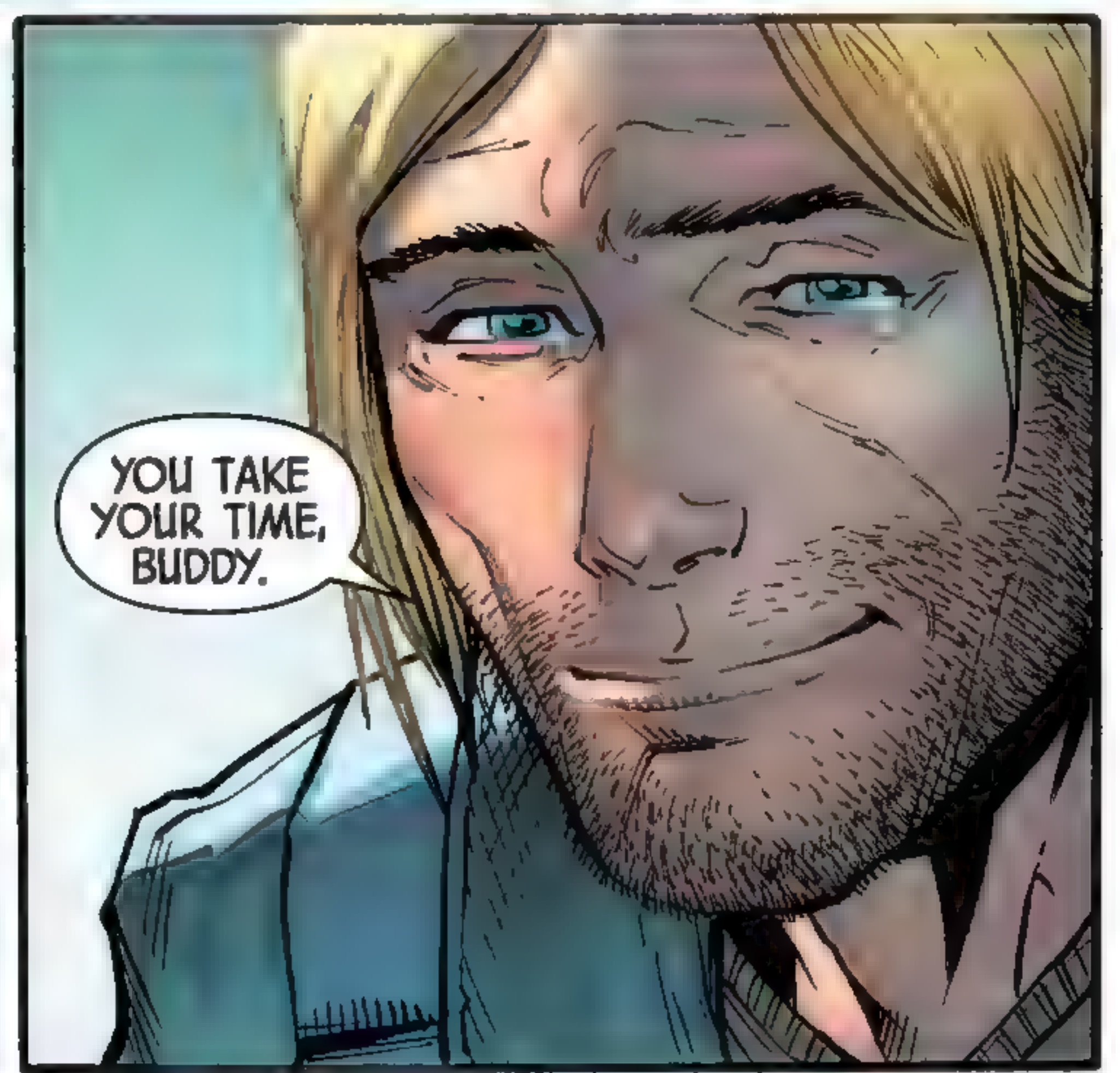
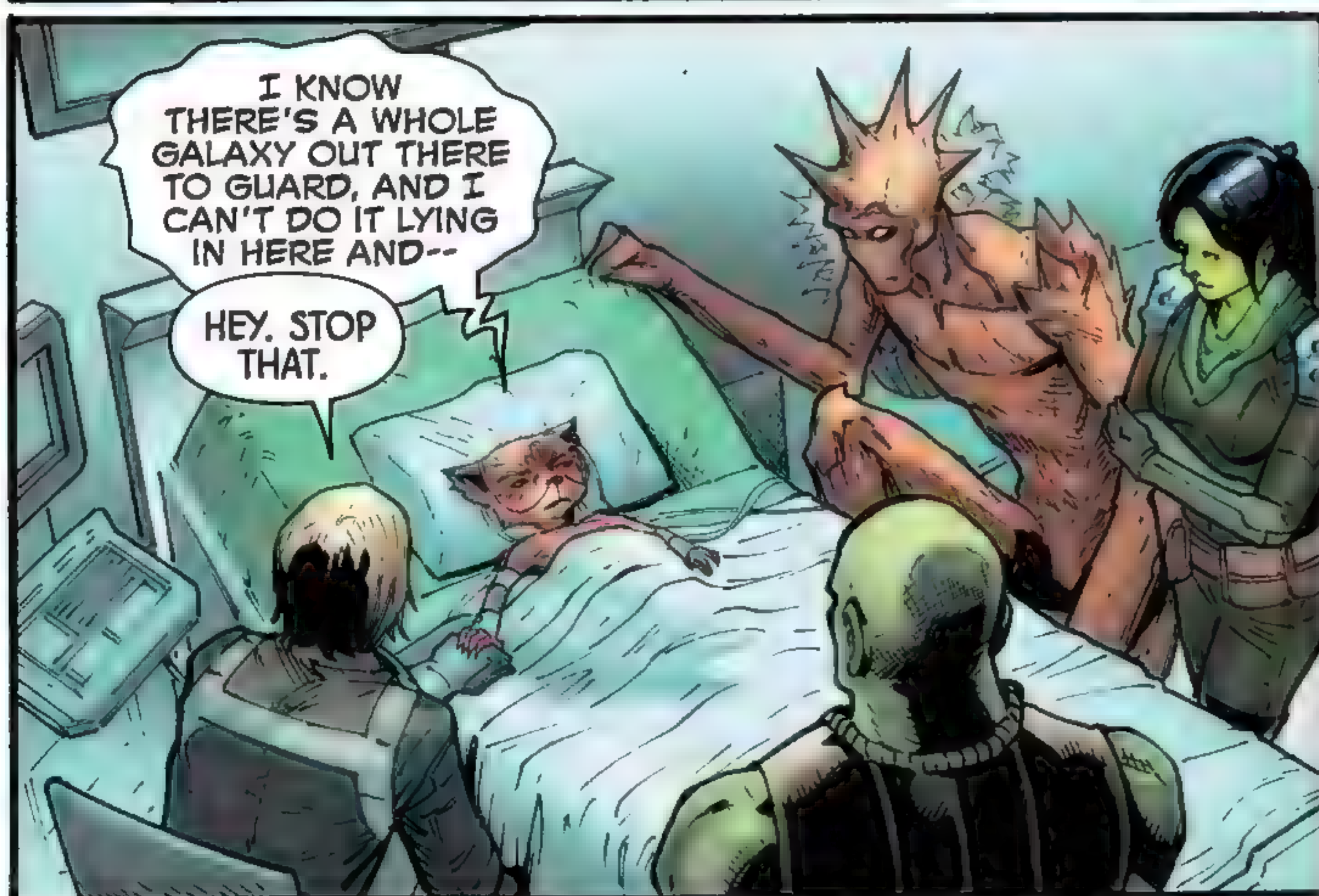
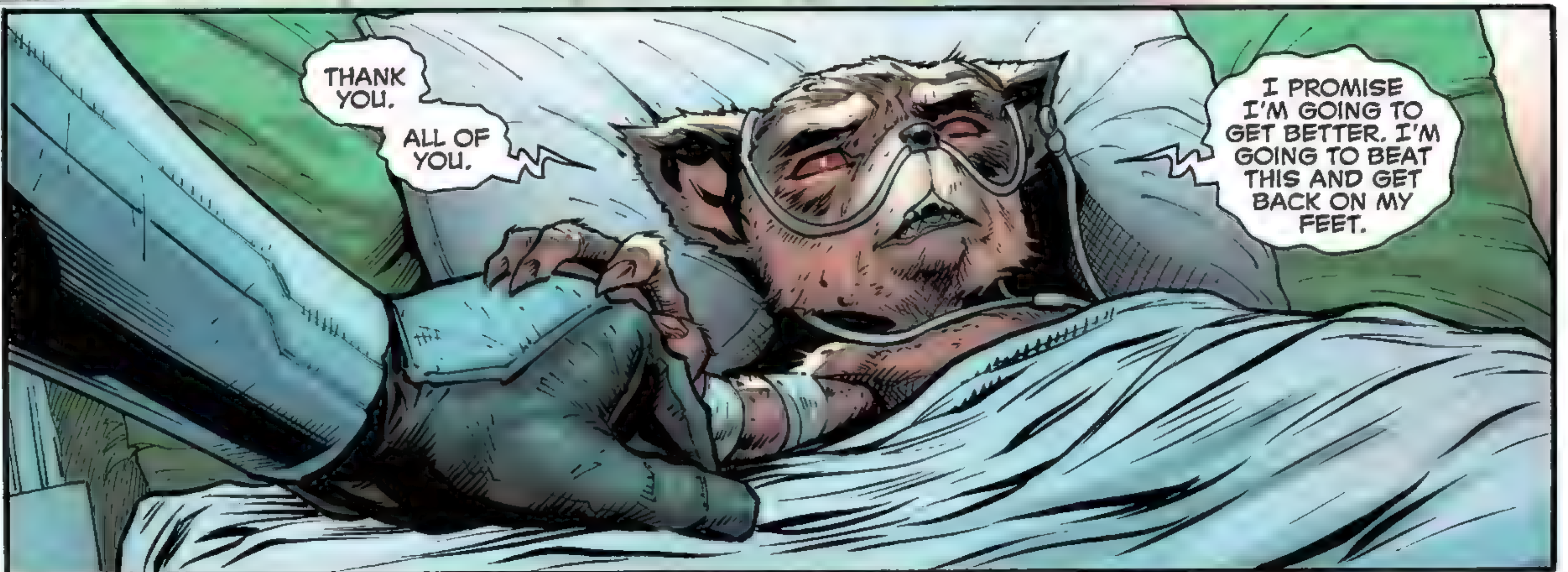


I'M... DRUGGED OUT OF MY EYEBALLS RIGHT NOW AND I DON'T EVEN KNOW HALF OF YOU.



OKAY, BUD, WE'LL LET YOU--

NO. HEY...WAIT UP.





THE GALAXY CAN WAIT.

THE END.



DECLAN SHALVEY
#12 variant



CORY SMITH & ROMULO FAJARDO JR.
ANNUAL #1 variant



RON LIM & ISRAEL SILVA
ANNUAL #1 variant



JOHN TYLER CHRISTOPHER
ANNUAL #1 variant

“A well-executed space opera with all the right ingredients for a great story.”

— Comic Watch

THE DEATH OF ROCKET?!

THE GUARDIANS OF THE GALAXY ARE TAKING SOME WELL-DESERVED R&R — but their vacation is cut short when a familiar, radically powerful enemy returns in the form of the Universal Church of Truth! As the Church attempts to resurrect their new messiah, the Guardians will have to turn to the dying Rocket Raccoon for help. But as the threat of the Universal Church of Truth looms large over the cosmos, can Rocket hold on long enough to make a difference? Plus: Find out what really happened to Nova, Quasar, Adam Warlock and Darkhawk! And who better to tell their stories than Cosmo the space dog?



COLLECTING **GUARDIANS OF THE GALAXY (2019) #7-12** AND **GUARDIANS OF THE GALAXY ANNUAL (2019) #1** — BY DONNY CATES, AL EWING, TINI HOWARD, ZAC THOMPSON, LONNIE NADLER, CORY SMITH, ARIEL OLIVETTI, DYLAN BURNETT, GEOFF SHAW, TRADD MOORE, JOHN McCREA, YILDIRAY CINAR, IBRAHIM MOUSTAFA, FILIPE ANDRADE, VICTOR OLAZABA, DAVID CURIEL, MIKE SPICER, RAIN BEREDO, JAY DAVID RAMOS, ANTONIO FABELA AND DAVE STEWART.

T+

MARVEL